

University of Memphis

University of Memphis Digital Commons

Other publications

OUT Memphis collection

8-13-2021

Mid-South GLBT News Press, volume 1, number 1

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.memphis.edu/speccoll-mss-outmemphis7>

Recommended Citation

"Mid-South GLBT News Press, volume 1, number 1" (2021). *Other publications*. 2.
<https://digitalcommons.memphis.edu/speccoll-mss-outmemphis7/2>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the OUT Memphis collection at University of Memphis Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Other publications by an authorized administrator of University of Memphis Digital Commons. For more information, please contact khggerty@memphis.edu.

ENCHANTED VIII
HALLOWEEN WEEKEND
SAT.-MON. OCT. 29-31
COSTUME CONTEST
SATURDAY & MONDAY
BACKSTREET

Premiere Issue
MID-SOUTH GLBT NEWS PRESS
AN A&P PUBLICATION
Folks Who Bring You FAMILY & Friends Magazine
Mid-October 2005

ETC presents
TEXAS HOMOS
by Jan Buttram
directed by Hal Harmon
November 11-18
901-722-9302
for reservations

MID-SOUTH GLBT NEWS PRESS

VOL. 1 No. 1

From The Same Folks Who Bring You FAMILY & Friends Magazine

Mid-October 2005

NEWS IN BRIEF

Love In Action open
▲ Memphis-based anti gay ministry remains open after filing federal lawsuit, page 4

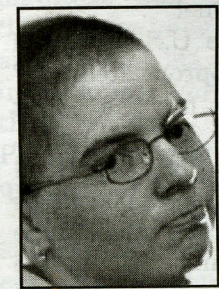


Miss Gay America
▲ Gulfport, Miss., resident takes top national title, page 5



Dance raises funds
▲ Backstreet Memphis fundraiser, page 8

Lawsuit filed



▲ Lambda Legal files suit on behalf of student, page 6

International News
▲ page 10

Blues Bash Champs



MEMPHIS BLUES BASH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT 2005 – Members of the Nashville Diamond Jax softball team, above, received their National Division first place gold medals during the Memphis Gaymes awards ceremony held at the Nike Fitness Center on Shelby Drive. For a complete list of Gaymes medalists, see page 12. photo by Patricia Pair

Lifestyles

Lofts of South Bluffs to host fundraising party

MEMPHIS – The Lofts of South Bluffs, Memphis's only all-loft condo building, will host a special party on Saturday, Nov. 5, starting at 7 p.m., with all proceeds going to the Memphis Arts Council. Tickets are \$25 and include live music, food, drinks and a great selection of art and artfully designed lofts. This event also serves as the official unveiling of the Lofts' "Henry Award" units, spotlighting Memphis designers Rachael Turri, Jenny Yeates, Amelia Carkuff and Graham Reese.

"We're absolutely thrilled to not only give back to the Memphis arts community, but to open our doors to the public so they can see how we're creating America's best loft living experience," said Henry Turley.

The "Henry Awards" were created and named after Turley, who wanted to illustrate the creative flexibility in designing a loft space. No longer just

an enclave for young artists and single professionals, loft living has gained popularity among a diverse range of social and economic groups, including empty nesters, young families and those seeking a convenient, downtown location. The designers participating in the Henry Awards were each given an empty loft and an individual or couple for whom to design the space. Completed lofts incorporate physical design elements, textures and color schemes that are reflective of their "customer."

In addition to spotlighting the work of professional designers, there also is an amateur version of the program in which three residents of The Lofts will open their homes for viewing. Attendees will pick their favorites in both the professional and amateur programs, splitting a cash prize based on the number of votes they receive.

Mid-South gets new professionals organization

MEMPHIS – The gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning community has a new organization for professionals from West Tennessee, Northeast Arkansas and Northern Mississippi. The Mid-South Lambda Professionals Alliance will serve as a networking and development organization for a range of professionals from the seasoned to students who are on a professional track.

"We have needed an organization like this for some time in the Mid-South," said W. Andrew Stricklin, founder and president. "There has been a great deal of interest in getting a professionals group started for sometime. It was the next logical step in the development of the Mid-South GLBTQ community because we already have a great number of other organizations that focus on our political activism, our community Pride, and serve as the heart of our community. As a result of these organizations, more and more people are becoming actively involved in the future of the GLBTQ community. Our organization will serve as another resource for those yet to become involved in the community."

"We originally envisioned providing just 'meet and greets' to provide a social venue for those who want more alternatives to the bar scene," Stricklin continued, "and where people can network with others from their given professions and other professions. However, there has been great interest expressed in leadership, professional development, basic job seeking workshops, job referrals and community development, among other things. MLPA hopes to develop and implement these things over the coming years."

MLPA is now developing the framework of the organization with

See BUSINESS, 5

Size Does Matter.



www.meltingpot.com (901) 380-9500

The Melting Pot®
a fondue restaurant

EDITORIAL ▲ OPINIONS

Why Mid-South needs a 3rd GLBT publication

Why does the Mid-South need another GLBT news publication? That is a question we've heard a lot since first announcing our intentions to print a second publication under our corporate brand, A&P Publications Inc. That announcement was made in the form of a "teaser" ad in our October 2005 edition of *Family & Friends Magazine*.



Simple Observations

by Patricia Pair
publisher

Unfortunately, the answer isn't as simple as we would like, nor is it as spiteful as some have rumored. The answer is grounded in a concept known as "the media as gatekeepers" to those in the journalism industry. It's a concept studied, researched and even theorized in many undergraduate and graduate journalism programs across the country.

Have you ever heard the phrase, "All the news that fits," or even the question, "Have you ever noticed that all the news seems to fit exactly into the paper?"

Simply put, neither of these is true. News gathering is done in a variety of ways from interviews to reading other publications, from questions brought by readers to upcoming events and how they affect our lives.

Every day there are literally thousands of news stories bombarding everyone from the citizen who tunes into "CNN" to those who read and monitor news wires like the Associated Press.

With this in mind, let's follow the job of a news editor for a moment. The job of the news editor (which in the realm of A&P Publications Inc. is both myself as publisher and Anita Moyt as managing editor) is to view all the news that comes our way through a variety of sources, and decide which stories get printed and which ones go into the circular file, ie. the trash can.

In many ways, the job of a news editor is a lot like playing God in that we decide what you know and what you don't know.

Legendary commentator Paul Harvey had a pretty good handle on the concept. He would find obscure news stories only briefly mentioned

and, after doing research, would report more fully on the story, concluding it with, "...and now you have the rest of the story."

Still wondering how all of this applies to our decision to publish a newspaper, which publishes in between issues of *Family & Friends*?

It's really pretty simple. Each month we are literally bombarded with hundreds of news stories about and related to the GLBT community. After our initial sorting of the news, the stories are written. Then, when we go into production, we actually narrow the number of stories down again, this time to fit in the editorial space available in the magazine. These are the stories you

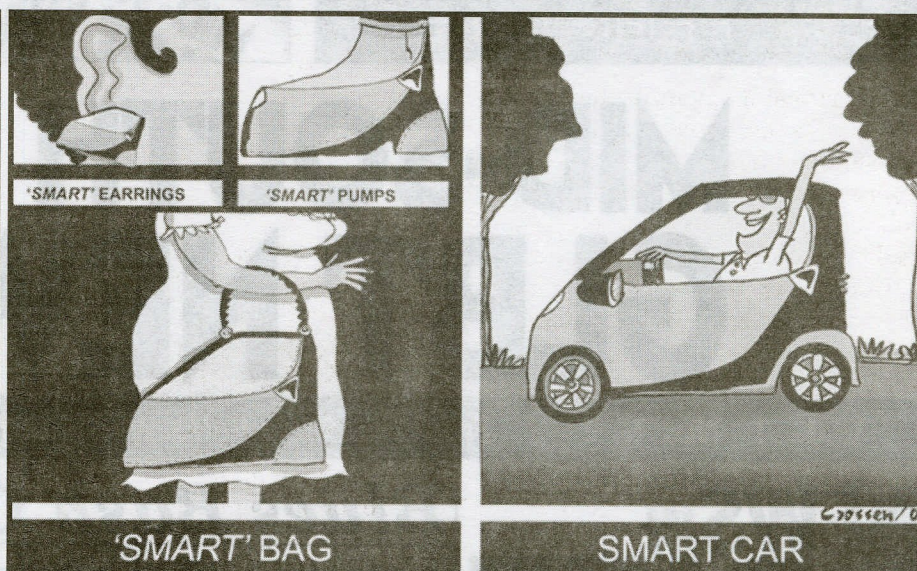
actually see after we go to print. Now that you know this, don't you wonder about the stories we didn't have space to print? Curious about what you've been missing?

It is this curiosity that has led us to the newspaper you have before you now. Well, curiosity and the fact that we don't believe any media outlet, be it print or broadcast, should have that kind of control over our lives. We believe all citizens have a right to know about the things that directly or in-directly affect their lives. Because of this belief, A&P Publications Inc. is making a commitment to the GLBT community of the Mid-South and it is this: We will bring you as much up-to-date news relevant to you as possible.

Sure, we'll still have to sort through stories and toss some that won't fit or that aren't relevant, locally or nationally. Unfortunately, it's just a necessary evil and there's simply no way around it. But, by bringing you two publications, it is our hope that we can at least keep you twice as informed as before.

Oh, we almost forgot. There's another reason for this new publication. The Memphis and Mid-South GLBT community has grown and matured a lot since we published our first issue almost eight years ago. Because of this maturing and growth, we feel our communities deserve it's own growing and maturing print media community.

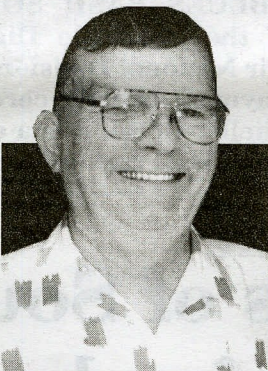
The Mid-South News•Press welcomes editorial comments from its readers. Letters to the Editor can be emailed to GLBTNewsPress@aol.com or snail-mailed to The GLBT News•Press, P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948.



Katrina, Katrina

"Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned."

BRAVO and KUDOS to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which oversees the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center. Its 24/7 staff of meteorologists, fly-in-the-eye pilots and crews and the computer modelers provided constant strength determinations, as well as a complete, up-to-the-minute location of Katrina. It also forecasted where she, as well as Rita, were going to be to all who would listen.



Cerebral Potpourri

by Jim Easter

Unfortunately, some elected and appointed officials and individual citizens chose not to listen. Some folks prepared for the category 4 hurricanes; others would not or could not. Some acted; others waited too late.

BRAVO, KUDOS AND HUZ-ZAHS to the U.S. Coast Guard, which more than lived up to its motto, "Semper Paratus," always prepared. It was the only federal agency providing rescue and recovery that was prepared.

Before the winds of Katrina had abated completely, the men and women, enlisted and officer corps, were rescuing people from rooftops in New Orleans. The agency had the foresight to pre-position 27 Coast Guard cutters and more than 100 other boats, both rigid bottom and inflatable, in the Gulf Coast area. Eighty Dolphin and Jayhawk helicopters had been flown in from the

east Coast, from as far away as Cape Cod, Mass.

More than 3,500 survivors were rescued during the first three days. By the time military helicopters got to New Orleans, five days after the storm struck, more than 6,500 people had been rescued. The pre-staging of personnel and equipment saved thousands of lives.

Oddly enough, one Coast Guardsman said he had not been trained for urban missions. His training had been for search and rescue at sea where there are no buildings, trees or power lines to interfere with rescue efforts. The chopper crews were divers who weren't trained for balcony and rooftop rescues. There's no telling how many people were saved by this "can do" attitude.

While the bureaucracy pussy-footed around trying to decide who should do what and when, the Coast Guard cut through any red tape. It acted! And kept performing its mission without relief for five days after Katrina spewed her devastation. In all, more than 33,000 people were eventually air-evacuated from New Orleans by the Coast Guard. This agency may be the only one which doesn't experience recruitment problems.

Each and every member of the Coast Guard, who participated in the very successful effort, deserves a medal. Very well done!

On Sept. 16, the U.S. House of Representatives appropriated \$8.7 billion (H.R. 889) for the Coast Guard's negotiated FY '06 needs. The 45,000 active duty personnel who patrol more than 12,000 miles of our seacoast are breathing a huge sigh of relief. The funds will provide the impetus for designing new, technologically-advanced cutters to

See CEREBRAL, 3

MID-SOUTH GLBT NEWS•PRESS

Published by:
A&P PUBLICATIONS INC.
P.O. Box 771948
Memphis, TN 38177-1948

Tel: 901-682-2669 • Fax: 901-685-2234

THE MID-SOUTH GLBT NEWS•PRESS is a monthly newspaper of general interest for members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities in the Mid-South.

Serving the Mid-South GLBT Community

PATRICIA PAIR, President
ANITA MOYT, General Manager
PATRICIA PAIR, Publisher
ANITA MOYT, Managing Editor
JIM EASTER, columnist
JOHN CROSSEN, cartoonist

The Mid-South GLBT News•Press is published monthly by A&P Publications Inc., publishers of *Family & Friends* magazine.

Advertising rates, both local and national, are furnished upon request.

Deadline for receipt of all advertising copy is 10 a.m. on the first day of each month. Publisher reserves the right to reject any and all advertising at her discretion.

Copyright ©2005, A&P Publications Inc., Memphis, TN 38177. All rights are reserved. Reproduction in part or whole without written permission of the publisher and/or managing editor is strictly prohibited.

Publication of the name, photograph or likeness of any person, organization or business in this publication is not to be considered as an indication of the sexual orientation or preference of that individual, organization or business.

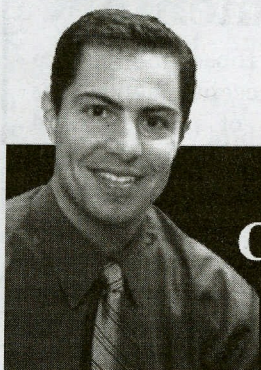
EDITORIAL ▲ OPINIONS

It's time for gay conservatives to come out!

This critical moment in the history of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender movement's fight for equality demands that a new generation of Americans come out of the closet — gay conservatives. Now is the time for closeted gay conservatives to find the courage and personal strength to stand up and be counted. Now is the time we can really make a difference. If every gay conservative came out of the closet today, the journey to full equality would be over in years instead of decades. It would soon become ineffective to use gay and lesbian families as wedge issues in campaigns. The cynical efforts to amend our federal and state constitution would eventually stop. The hypocrisy of anti-gay political tactics being used by way too many Republicans and some Democrats would be finally exposed.

One of the biggest un-kept secrets in Washington, D.C., is that closeted gay Republicans are everywhere — the White House, Republican Party organizations, the halls of Congress, the most influential law offices and the most powerful lobbying firms in our nation's capital. Some of those who remain closeted have chosen to be either passive bystanders or, in some cases, active critics of our movement, while comfortably partaking in the fringe benefits of our community work — all the while sipping the finest martinis in our trendiest gay bars.

Coming out is an intensely personal journey. As someone who struggled long and hard with how and when to come out of the closet, I



Guest Commentary

by Patrick Guerriero
president
Log Cabin Republicans

unequivocally oppose outing. I am unaware of a single forced outing that led to passage of a single piece of pro-LGBT legislation. Coming out on one's own terms, with free will, and with personal courage is a positive catalyst for change. Forced outings don't advance our movement because they're motivated by vengeance.

Over the years, many closeted gay Republicans have discreetly and impressively helped advance equality. In spite of attacks from too many on the partisan gay left, some gay conservatives work behind the scenes to pass equality legislation, increase funding for HIV/AIDS, offer vital counsel to LGBT groups and help defend us against anti-gay legislation. These gay conservatives have quietly come out to their bosses and colleagues — changing some into gay allies and challenging others to soften their positions over time. These individuals have been quiet heroes, not asking for or wanting public credit.

Other gay Republicans, however, simply have failed to stand up, being more concerned about keeping their title, their paycheck, their chance for promotion or their chance to attend another White House cocktail party.

During this moment in the culture war, we face a fight that will determine how LGBT Americans are treated for decades to come. Those who choose to be missing in action are running from the most critical fight of our generation. During these historic times, the closet is not only a place which

suffocates personal dignity, it also is a place which suffocates the powerful force of personal integrity that can change the hearts and minds of even the most conservative Americans and most conservative politicians. Coming out doesn't have to mean putting a sticker on your car, flying a rainbow flag from your front porch or marching in a parade. Coming out means different things to different people. It may be as simple as putting a picture of your partner on your desk at work, sharing your personal story with your boss or speaking up when someone says something anti-gay. For others, it may be as difficult as offering a letter of resignation, instead of implementing or assisting with an anti-gay campaign strategy.

For many conservatives, coming out will come with real and profound sacrifice. Thankfully, we can find role models in and inspiration from a new generation of Log Cabin (Republican) members who are coming out in some of America's most conservative places... They are coming out to family members, who sometimes turn them away from the Thanksgiving dinner table if

they insist on bringing their partner; in towns where they're the only openly gay person; in traditional churches where they've heard intolerance from the pulpit; in high schools without gay/straight student alliances, and in workplaces where there are no protections that prevent them from being fired for simply being gay. They are the real heroes of today's LGBT movement and they need and deserve to be given a helping hand in the days ahead.

That helping hand needs to come from gay conservatives. We hold the key to changing the hearts and minds of fellow Republicans, conservative Democrats and people of faith. In the not too distant future, the history books will record who had the courage to come out of the closet and lead us to victory when it mattered most. Only with the help of gay conservatives can our movement achieve victory over the radical right. Only with the help of gay conservatives can we prevent the radical right from hijacking the Republican Party. Only with the help of gay conservatives can we defeat the voices of fear and intolerance that are feverishly working to deny any and all civil recognition for gay families.

The history books will note not only those who had the courage to stand up, but sadly so, those who remain silent. The time is now.

Log Cabin Republicans is the nation's largest organization of Republicans that support fairness, freedom and equality for gay and lesbian Americans. For more information, go online to www.logcabin.org.

CEREBRAL, from page 2

replace the antiquated ones presently in service. The aging Dolphin aircraft need to be replaced and the equipment on the newer Jayhawks updated. These high maintenance aircraft need more modern equipment. The Coast Guard also provides and maintains navigational aids on our coastlines and our major rivers.

BRAVO and KUDOS to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which maintain our major waterways through dredging and levee building and repair. This agency's engineers in Memphis initially coordinated the shoring up of Lake Pontchartrain's levees, and subsequently the flood control efforts.

On site engineers planned for and supervised the stanching of the levees with 6,000-pound sand bags. The Corp's technical staff and contractors succeeded in fixing the canal breaches and in getting pumping stations operational so that New Orleans could be drained — twice.

It will be a while before "well done" can be said, but the Corps is doing its damndest to complete the task ASAP. If the President doesn't think the Corps is a "throw away" agency, then why has its funding been reduced during the Bush years? The Crawford Cowboy must rethink his priorities.

BRAVO and KUDOS to Lt. General Russel Honore. From the

moment General Honore first arrived on the scene in the Gulf Coast, he was said to be yelling orders right and left, with military personnel responding by high-tailing it across the tarmac. Despite the fact that he did not know the whereabouts of his own daughter, a Louisiana resident, he pushed forward and stuck to his job to recover and rescue American citizens missing in these hurricanes. Yet, Honore, a native of Louisiana, also showed he knew the difference between war and a recovery effort when he told the National Guardsmen and the New Orleans police officers to shoulder their rifles and quit pointing them at the citizens.

BRAVO and KUDOS to the unrecognized local leaders and citizens who saved lives by providing food, shelter and clothing to those in need. And also to the outsiders who drove to the devastated areas to give whatever relief assistance they could to people and to two and four-legged abandoned pets.

BRAVO and KUDOS to the harried doctors, nurses and staff of the New Orleans hospitals who had to make hard, life-or-death decisions. They decided who got the dwindling supply of medications. With no relief, how many patients died from dehydration, starvation or lack of medicine?

BOOS, HISSES and JEERS to the federal government in general, particularly the President, the Secretary of Homeland Security and

the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The President proved that the Peter Principle, i.e., a person is hired or promoted to his own level of incompetence, is working undiminished in Washington.

Prior to 9/11, the Coast Guard, the Corps of Engineers and FEMA were quasi-independent agencies. With the restructuring of government, they were all placed in the Department of Homeland Security. Unfortunately, under this arrangement, Peter and Paul couldn't communicate and incompetent Mary was waiting for the answer to come blowing in the wind.

On Sept. 13, more than two weeks after Katrina struck, Bush finally acknowledged his administration's failure and accepted responsibility. Proverbs 16:18 says it all: "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

However, President Bush did not cast aside his obsession with terrorism. He said the nation was still unprepared for a major catastrophe, such as urban biochemical warfare initiated by a terrorist cell. Perhaps that's why 75 percent of FEMA's budget is allocated for anti-terrorism activities and only 25 percent for natural disasters.

The next day, the 9/11 Commission reported on the state of its recommendations to deal with the absence of a unified command, communications and rapid response.

"The President doesn't want to make hard choices or set priorities," said co-chair Lee Hamilton as he noted the lack of progress at all levels of government and the private sector. Like 9/11, Katrina showed that there must be communication among first responders at the scene. The commission had recommended that specific radio frequencies be allocated for crisis response.

When will the President authorize the development and implementation of a national communications system? A large-scale emergency is a national problem, not just a state or local problem. When will the Coast Guard, the National Guard, FEMA and state and local officials be able to communicate with each other in real time?

Also, on Sept. 14, the Senate voted along party lines NOT to establish an independent commission to investigate the response of government to Katrina.

The next day, in a carefully-scripted, televised speech from Jackson Square, with the brightly lit St. Louis Cathedral in the background to emphasize religious compassion, Bush said, "We want the evacuees to come home." He did not mention that Mommy Barbara thought it was scary that the tens of thousands of underprivileged evacuees housed at the Astrodome wanted to remain in Texas. Not to worry,

See CEREBRAL, 14

Love In Action files lawsuit, doors remain open

by Anita Moyt
managing editor

MEMPHIS — Under pressure to close its faith-based operations, which offers, for a fee, to help individuals allegedly gain control over their undesirable homosexual attractions and behaviors, Love in Action International Inc. (LIA) filed a lawsuit, thus keeping it in business while the case is open.

After requests from the public, following the protests against LIA generated from the blog of 16-year-old who was placed in the LIA Refuge program for adolescents, the State of Tennessee set about to investigate LIA to determine if it was a properly licensed facility offering mental health counseling.

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (DMHDD) made the decision that LIA was a "Mental Health Supportive Living Facility" and notified LIA it had until Sept. 23 to "cease operations of its facilities." After negotiations with the state, LIA was granted an extension of time until Sept. 30 to "no longer admit individuals who meet the 'mentally ill' description in their ministry, without licensure," accord-

ing to the lawsuit.

On Sept. 30, Love In Action International Inc. filed a lawsuit in

Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen; Virginia Trotter Betts, commissioner of the Tennessee DMHDD;

sure coordinator for the DMHDD.

The suit asks the court "to provide redress for and relief from deprivation of constitutional rights it has suffered and continues to suffer at the hands of Defendants."

LIA alleges, in its lawsuit, that "beginning in June of 2005, as a direct result of political pressure exerted by certain groups and individuals who oppose LIA's religious viewpoint on the issue of homosexuality, the State of Tennessee, through various departments, has pursued multiple avenues intended to limit LIA's ministry."

LIA claims the "political pressure" came from two groups, Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and Queer Action Coalition (QAC).

Although neither PFLAG nor QAC were named as defendants in the lawsuit, LIA's alleges these two groups influenced the state's decision to close down the Christian-based, "ex-gay" ministry, according to the lawsuit.

"In late May and early June of this year, an adolescent participant in a LIA day-time program known as 'Refuge' (Zach), made a few 'blog' entries on his own personal web page," LIA states in its lawsuit documents. "Therein, he discussed a disagreement with his parents regarding the morality of homosexual behavior, and decried his parents' decision to send him to the LIA Refuge program. ... Shortly thereafter, these blog entries made by the adolescent were forwarded on the Internet many times over and came to the attention of numerous groups and individuals who disagree with LIA's religious viewpoint on homosexuality."

"One such group, Queer Action Coalition was created and formed for the specific purpose of opposing LIA," the lawsuit continues. "When members of QAC learned of LIA's existence and purpose, they formed a coalition to challenge LIA's ministry. Members of QAC publicized the blog entries to other groups that support the homosexual lifestyle. QAC also organized protests and pickets in (the) vicinity of LIA's locations."

"Another group became involved, Parents and Friends for Lesbians and Gays (sic) and joined the effort opposing LIA's ministry," the lawsuit read, making reference to PFLAG.

"Many of the emails sent to Rev. (John) Smid (LIA executive director) from members of QAC and PFLAG stated their explicit intention to restrict LIA's ministry or cause it to cease altogether," LIA alleges in its complaints. "Members from both groups, among others, expressly stated a goal to cause LIA's demise. In their efforts to bring this goal to fruition, upon information and belief, members of both QAC and PFLAG besieged the governor's office and various state agencies for the State of Tennessee, demanding that LIA come under state regulation or be forced to cease operation. As a direct consequence of the pleas made by QAC and PFLAG, as well as other lobbying efforts, various departments of the State of Tennessee began to investigate LIA."

Queer Action Coalition responded online at its website, www.fighting-homophobia.blogspot.com, to its references made in LIA's lawsuit with the caption, "Love in action lawsuit

LIA story spawns documentary

MEMPHIS — *What Does Love In Action Look Like: A Preface* will premiere Monday, Oct. 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the Indie Memphis Film Fest at Peabody Place Muvico 22 Theatres.

In June of 2005, a Memphis teenager told his parents that he is gay and they responded by telling him he must go to a fundamentalist Christian program for gays operated by Love In Action International. The teenager recorded his experiences leading up to his time in the program on his MySpace.com Internet blog.

This documentary follows the story as it grows into a national concern. As the story unfolds, people from Memphis, and around the country, tell their own stories of coming out, featuring former clients of Love In Action,

parents, teens, those who've since gone on to accept themselves through years of pressure and fear, as well as the people who share their struggles, and have come to stand against homophobia. This documentary, a preface to an ongoing story here in the Mid-South, also poses the question: What does love in action look like?

The screening will be followed by a talk back session with Queer Action Coalition members who took part in protesting Love in action, as well as former clients of the Love In Action Organization.

What Does Love In Action Look Like: A Preface is a Sawed-Off Collaboratory/MeDiA Co-op production directed by Morgan Jon Fox in connection with Queer Action Coalition.

United States District Court
Western District of Tennessee
Memphis Division against

Arthur Hyde, director of the
DMHDD Office of Licensure, and
Phil Brown, West Tennessee lisen-

Joseph S. Ozment

ATTORNEY AT LAW

138 North Third Street
Memphis, TN 38103

901-525-HELP (4357)

CRIMINAL DEFENSE State & Federal Court

Drug Possession • DUI • Driving on a Revoked

License • Domestic Violence

ALL FELONIES & MISDEMEANORS

Other Areas of Practice Include:

BANKRUPTCY • WAGE EARNER

Divorce • Child Custody & Visitation

Personal Injury • Auto Accidents

& Social Security Disability

Payment Plans Available
In Most Cases

VISA, MASTERCARD

DISCOVER & AMERICAN EXPRESS

ACCEPTED

Not Certified As A Civil Trial or Consumer Bankruptcy Specialist By The
Tennessee Commission On Continuing Legal Education and Specialization

See LOVE IN ACTION, 8

Nicole DuBois crowned Miss Gay America 2006

by Patricia Pair
publisher

MEMPHIS — Nicole DuBois, Miss Gay Mid-America, was crowned Miss Gay America 2006, in front of an impressive crowd at The Cannon Center for the Performing Arts on Oct. 16. She is the 34th female impersonator to hold the title since the pageant's inception in 1972.

It was a star-studded evening complete with glamour, lots of rhinestones, sparkling evening gowns and outstanding entertainment all set against the magnificent backdrop of the Cannon Center.

The Final Night got underway with a parade of the 50 Miss Gay America contestants, chosen during 27 preliminaries held in the months prior to the actual pageant. After

each was introduced to the audience, the Top 10 Finalists, chosen based on preliminary competitions held Oct. 12-14 at Backstreet Memphis, were announced. They were Miss Gay Florida Representative Coti Collins, Miss Gay Heart of America Victoria DePaula, Miss Gay Kansas Luscious, Miss Gay Keystone Truly Fabu, Miss Gay Mid-America Nicole DuBois, Miss Gay Mid-America First Alternate China Collins, Miss Gay Northwest Regional Representative Alyssa Edwards, Miss Gay Southern Elegance Alina Malletti, Miss Gay Texas Layla LaRue and Miss Gay Tennessee Victoria Parker.

Also among the 50 contestants were Memphis's own DeMonica Santingilo, Miss Gay Tennessee First Alternate, and Anita Cocktail, Miss Gay Tri-States Representative.

Several hours later, after each of the Top 10 Finalists had wowed the audience with their beauty in the evening gown contest, baffled them with their brains during the on-stage questions and entertained all with their enormous talent, the judges made their decisions.

The Miss Gay America 2006 crown was placed upon the head of Nicole DuBois, followed by Coti Collins, First Alternate; Victoria Parker, Second Alternate; Alyssa Edwards, Third Alternate, and Layla LaRue, Fourth Alternate.

Although DuBois was stunning in her evening gown, it was perhaps her talent that helped earn her the crown. Instead of a flashy, lip sync'd production number, complete with dancers and an ensemble, DuBois opted to sing in her own voice after explaining her choice of tune as it related to her home, Gulfport, Miss., which was devastated by recent Hurricane Katrina. Of course, DuBois's win came as no real surprise as she was the only contestant to totally sweep her group's preliminary earlier in the week winning the Male Interview, Solo Talent, Evening Gown and Talent contests. For more on DuBois, see the November issue of *Family & Friends*.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the pageant's Lifetime Achievement Award, which was given to Norman Jones, aka Norma Kristie. Jones was crowned as the first Miss Gay America in 1972. Three years later, in 1975, Jones purchased the pageant and continued to promote and maintain the contest until he sold it to Memphis's Larry Tyger and Terry Eason, of L&T Entertainment, in February 2005.

Judges for this year's competition were Steve DeVore of Memphis; Larry Edwards of Las Vegas, aka Hot Chocolate and Miss Gay America 1980; Vicki Holleman of Atlanta; Spencer May of Little Rock, aka Kelly Cruise, and Mary Thompson of Pensacola, Fla.

Sponsors for the Miss Gay America 2006 pageant included Anheiser Busch, French Quarter



MISS GAY AMERICAS: 2005 Raquel Chevallier, left, and 2006 Nicole DuBois.

Inn Hotel, Frederico Leone-Colonial Shoe Company, *Family & Friends Magazine*, Sharp Flowers and Tiara Enterprises.

For more pictures of the Final Night, see the November 2005 issue of *Family & Friends Magazine*.

The Winners

MISS GAY AMERICA 2006

Nicole DuBois

FIRST ALTERNATE

Coti Collins

SECOND ALTERNATE

Victoria Parker

THIRD ALTERNATE

Alyssa Edwards

FOURTH ALTERNATE

Layla LaRue

...

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Norman Jones

BEST STATE PRELIMINARY OF THE YEAR

Missouri

BEST REGIONAL PRELIMINARY OF THE YEAR

Western States

BEST NON-FINISHING FINALIST

Andora TeTee

CONGENIALITY AWARD

China Collins

DOOR-DECORATING CONTEST

Diva

MICHAEL ANDREWS PHOTOGENIC CONTEST

Aspen Tyler

OVERALL MALE INTERVIEW (PRELIMINARY)

Nicole DuBois

OVERALL SOLO TALENT (PRELIMINARY)

Nicole DuBois

OVERALL TALENT (PRELIMINARY)

Alyssa Edwards

...

GROUP ONE PRELIMINARY NIGHT

MALE INTERVIEW

China Collins

SOLO TALENT

Victoria Barrera Jaymes

EVENING GOWN

China Collins

TALENT

DuWanna Moore

...

GROUP TWO PRELIMINARY NIGHT

MALE INTERVIEW

Symphony Alexander

SOLO TALENT

Alyssa Edwards

EVENING GOWN

Alyssa Edwards

TALENT

Alyssa Edwards

...

GROUP THREE PRELIMINARY NIGHT

MALE INTERVIEW

Nicole DuBois

SOLO TALENT

Nicole DuBois

EVENING GOWN

Nicole DuBois

TALENT

Nicole DuBois

FFL to showcase new building

MEMPHIS — Friends For Life Corporation will celebrate moving into its new home at 43 North Cleveland with an open house, scheduled for Friday, Dec. 2, from 4 to 6 p.m.

With its move to new headquarters, Friends For Life has consolidated all of its supportive services into one central location. This building was a gift from the late Ralph R. "Ronney" Snell of Eads, Tenn., and former Congressman and Senator Bill Bruce of Smithville, Tenn.

The open house will provide the public with the opportunity to tour the new building and learn more about the services Friends For Life offers its clients and the community. A history of the agency spanning the past 20 years, from its inception as the Aid to End AIDS Committee to merging with Aloysius Home to its present location, will be documented and copies will be available.

In a joint effort with the Memphis College of Art, "Wall of

Friends" is being designed that will exhibit to the community the help donors have given Friends For Life. A mock-up of this donor wall will be revealed during the open house.

The three-story, 16,000-square foot building consolidates all of Friends For Life's comprehensive services, with the exception of housing, under one roof. This consolidation will eventually save the agency, and the community, up to \$36,000 a year, which is the amount that was most recently being paid for leasing the office building at 1384 Madison Avenue.

The ground floor of the new building houses client services areas, including the Food Pantry processing area, case management, HIV testing, Positive Living Center and the Wellness University.

The second floor is being used for administrative offices.

For more information, call (901) 272-0855 or visit their website at www.friendsforlifecorp.org.

BUSINESS, from front page

the development of by-laws, standing operational committees, and identifying the needs of the professionals from the community and what programs and events will benefit the majority of the group.

The MLPA monthly general business meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 892 South Cooper,

at 2:30 p.m. The meetings are open to all who wish to be part of MLPA.

Those who would like to become members of the organization or want to stay informed about its activities can join its communication group at www.yahoo.com/group/MidSouthLPA.

The first MLPA networking and social event is in the planning stages and is anticipated to be a holiday social event sometime in December.

BOGIE'S DELICATESSEN

2008 LaSalle

Midtown Memphis, TN 38104

(901) 272-0022

Boar's Head Brand



featuring Boar's Head meats & cheeses

LET BOGIES TAKE CARE OF
YOUR HOLIDAY FEAST!
Party Trays & Catering Available

Voted #1 Deli by
Memphis Magazine
and The Memphis Flyer

HOURS

7 am to 6 pm Monday-Friday
8 am to 3 pm Saturday

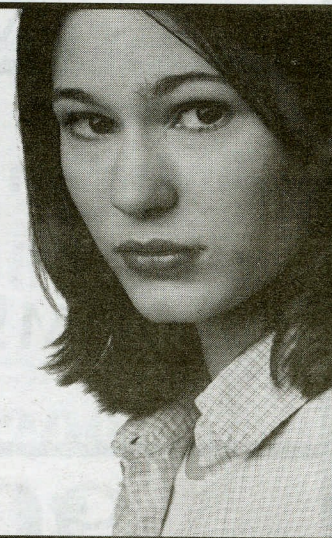
Want to
know
if you are
HIV positive?

At Planned Parenthood
results take just
20 minutes.



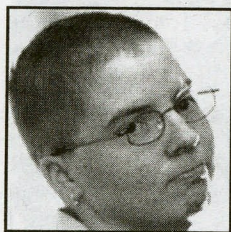
Memphis Regional
Planned Parenthood®

1407 Union Ave., Third Floor • 725-1717



Lawsuit filed on behalf of high school student

NEW JERSEY — Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit with the Superior Court of New Jersey in Monmouth County on behalf of a lesbian student who was verbally and physically attacked for two and a half years in Holmdel High School. While the abuse was brought to the school administration's attention time and again, no effective measures were taken by the school to end it.



NANCY
WADINGTON

The plaintiff, Nancy Wadington, 18, attended Holmdel High School until the middle of 11th grade when she had to leave the school to protect her safety. For nearly three years, other students had verbally harassed her, threw bottles and other objects at her, pushed her down a flight of stairs and stole and destroyed her books and backpacks — on one occasion urinating inside her backpack. Though both Nancy

and her mother approached the school's administration seeking assistance, they failed to stop the harassment.

"It is an atrocity that school officials would ignore laws in New Jersey, which are touted as being the most comprehensive nondiscrimination laws on the books," said Alphonso David, staff attorney at Lambda Legal and an attorney on the case. "Holmdel High School failed horribly in its duty to protect Nancy Wadington and there is no excuse for it. Hopefully this lawsuit serves as a further wake-up call to schools that they cannot ignore antigay harassment and abuse."

Based on the fears for her safety, Wadington stopped using the restrooms at school, forcing herself to go to the bathroom only before and after school, despite abdominal pain. She also stopped using the school's locker rooms, wearing her gym clothes to and from school. She further avoided the dangerous hallways between classes and, instead, often walked outside the building, even in the cold and rain, to find an

entry door closest to her next class.

The lawsuit is based on the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination that prohibits sexual orientation discrimination in all places of public accommodation, including schools.

This case is a continuation of Lambda Legal's work on behalf of youth in school. In 1996, Lambda Legal won a landmark victory in *Nabozny vs. Podlesny*, in which a Wisconsin student was the victim of antigay harassment at school — the case set the precedent holding schools accountable when they fail to protect their students from antigay harassment.

"For me, going to school was about being humiliated. It was not about getting an education," Wadington said. "It was my school's responsibility to provide me with a safe learning environment, but instead they effectively ignored the harassment I was experiencing and left me to defend myself. I am not

the only person to have unnecessarily been harassed because of their sexual orientation and I am here to

"For me, going to school was about being humiliated. It was not about getting an education."

— Nancy Wadington, 18

say that we cannot just be silenced and swept under the rug."

For more information, go online to www.lambdalegal.org.

ACLU begins 'Not In My State' action

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Sept. 21, The American Civil Liberties Union launched "Not In My State," a nationwide action aimed at combating dangerous abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula. In a coordinated effort, ACLU affiliates across the country are sending letters to local officials calling for careful scrutiny of health and life-skills curricula.

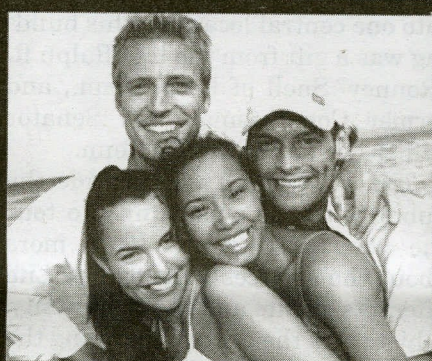
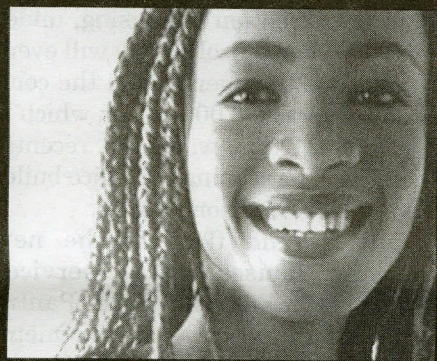
"Today's action should be a wake-up call for many states," said Louise Melling, director of the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project. "State officials need to ensure the health and safety of students by taking responsibility for the curricula taught in their classrooms."

According to a recent report prepared for Representative Henry A. Waxman (D-CA), many abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula used by federally-funded programs contain false and misleading information and perpetuate harmful stereotypes. Perhaps most alarmingly, these curricula misrepresent the effectiveness of contraceptives by vastly understating the effectiveness of condoms at protecting against sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) and preventing unintended pregnancy. Such misinformation is particularly alarming given that each year in the United States, nearly 9.1 million 15-24 year olds are infected with an STD and more than 800,000 15-19 year olds become pregnant.

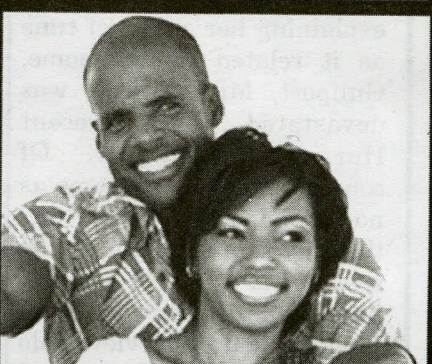
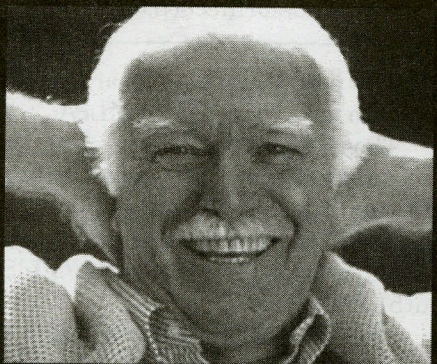
ACLU affiliates in 18 states called on local officials to keep unsafe abstinence-only-until-marriage programs out of the classroom. The letters encouraged officials to select health and life-skills curricula that present medically accurate, age-appropriate and unbiased information about sex and sexuality.

For more information, go online to www.aclu.org.

Find Your Perfect Smile in 2005



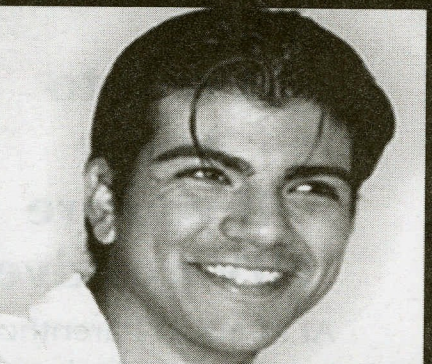
Join our patient family and receive a **FREE TAKE HOME WHITENING KIT** (a \$365 value) with your new patient exam, cleaning and necessary x-rays.
(Offer valid for 30 days)



Dr. William Castle
79 North Cooper
Memphis, Tn. 38104

invisalign
Straight Teeth. No Braces.

ZOOM!
professional carbide
whitening system



BBB
MEMBER
MID-SOUTH

901-685-5008

Call today about ZOOM! 1 hour whitening and Invisalign teeth straightening with no wire braces.

**To Advertise
in this NEW
publication,
call
901.682.2669
or write**

GLBTNewsPress@aol.com

Reviews of abstinence-only curricula released

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Sept. 26, as part of its Third Annual "Back to School" briefing, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS) released its latest reviews of three abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula used in federally-funded programs. Although the programs vary, these reviews document that the programs are riddled with messages of fear, shame, gender stereotypes and medical misinformation that put young people at risk.

"These reviews provided an excellent portrait of the types of abstinence-only-until-marriage curricula used in the programs funded by the federal government," said William Smith, vice president for public policy at SIECUS. "We hope this information will give educators, policy-makers, community leaders and parents the true picture of what our nation's young people are, and in many cases, are not learning with respect to their sexual health."

SIECUS reviewed "Passions and Principles," "Worth the Wait" and "Navigators." Since FY 2001, the programs that use these curricula have received more than \$4 million.

Examples of the messages included in the curricula are as follows:

"Passions and Principles:"

- "If a student rolls a four, he or she contracted AIDS and the leader is instructed to say, 'You're heading to the grave. No cure.'" (*Passion & Principles, Leader's Guide*, pg. 34)

- "One in five times condoms will fail for pregnancy." (*Passion & Principles, Leader's Guide*, pg. 10)

"Worth the Wait:"

- "Condoms can never protect someone from the emotional problems that can result from multiple sexual partners and premature sexual activity." (*Worth the Wait*, Section 6-20.41)

- "Males will often have their first

"Navigator:"

- "She realized that the emotional pain she was experiencing was real, and that a condom wasn't going to do anything to blunt the emotional hurt she was experiencing." (*Navigator*, workbook, pg. 33)

- "Abortion is often listed first by

students, because it seems to be a quick and easy solution. If students list abortion, ask 'if a girl chooses to have an abortion, do you think it will have long-term consequences for her? Do you think it will affect her physically, emotionally, mentally or socially?'" (*Navigator Guide Book*, pg. 36)

"Programs that dis-

parage condom use, instill fear and shame in young people, perpetuate gender stereotypes and contain anti-abortion messages, among other deplorable statements, have no place in any program for school-

"If a student rolls a four, he or she contracted AIDS and the leader is instructed to say, 'You're heading to the grave. No Cure.'"

— *Passion & Principles, Leader's Guide*, pg. 34

intercourse experience with a woman to whom he feels no particular attachment while females tend to have their first sexual experience with a man they love and may want to marry." (*Worth the Wait*, Section 6-8)

WKNO Channel 10 Auction is set

MEMPHIS — The WKNO Channel 10 Arts and Antiques Auction is set to be aired live Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 5-6 and 12-13, from noon to 11 p.m. More than 600 treasures await the highest bid to benefit public broadcasting.

A new feature this year is "The Cellar at Gallery 10," featuring fine wines and spirits from local collectors and distributors plus a few exciting dining experiences. Angela Moon of Buster's Liquors & Wines, otherwise known as the "Queen of Champagne," will host this segment of Gallery 10 sharing her wealth of wine knowledge and expertise.

Items up for auction can be previewed online at wkno.org or by visiting the station, located on The University of Memphis South Campus at Park and Getwell, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information call (901) 458-2521.

**BE THE
CHANGE
YOU WANT
TO SEE
IN THE
WORLD!**

"Your health matters. Get Test today!"

**exodus
E GROUP**



Our Mission: To prevent the acquisition and transmission of HIV among African American Men Who Have Sex With Men, ages 13-29 and to make safer-sex a community norm.

October 29, 2005

@ 6pm

2600 Poplar Ave #200

Memphis, TN 38112

(901) 458-4717

ask for Robert or Drew

Evacuee fundraiser held at Backstreet

MEMPHIS — A total of \$2,400 was raised by members of the GLBT community Oct. 7 when folks came out to Backstreet Memphis for dance/relief, a benefit club night for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief.

While locals were asked to pay a \$10 admission fee, Hurricane Katrina evacuees were admitted free, as long as they had a valid ID.

According to dance/relief's website (www.dancerelief.org), "Backstreet has embraced the philanthropic spirit of our newbie non-profit ever since its inception and in this way seemed like an appropriate place to host our event."

Backstreet Memphis is listed as a sponsor on dance/relief's website. If you didn't attend the event you may be asking yourself what dance/relief is.

"The dance/relief collective is a network of volunteers that believe that the desire of people to come together and have a good time can be harnessed towards progressive, positive change," the organization's website read. "dance/relief is made up of people who were either directly or indirectly affected powerfully by the massive tragedy of the South Asian tsunami disaster of Dec. 26, 2004. We wanted to seize the opportunity to transform the dance/relief collective into more than simply a one-shot disaster response, but rather into a grant-making not-for-profit organization that believes that dancing and progressive relief need not be mutually exclusive."

One of dance/relief's mottos is, "Relief + Rehabilitation = HOPE."

"We believe that ongoing attention to community capacity building with a commitment to ongoing reconstruction and rehabilitation of devastated communities is just as important as meeting the acute emergency needs of areas ravaged by this, or any disaster," the website read.

You don't have to wonder where

your donations are going, either because dance/relief's website is relatively straight forward in regard to its beneficiaries.

"As for where the proceeds will go this time around," it read, "we've been contacting local shelters (nearly all of them churches within the most impoverished inner-city enclaves in Memphis) to find out where the need for immediate necessities is the greatest. In the likely event that two weeks from now most of the local shelters' immediate requirements have been met (many of them apparently had been until Rita), we will be donating to well-established non-profit organizations, such as the Memphis-based Church Health Center, which

is presently providing a walk-in pharmacy with donated medicine for evacuees.

"Another impressively effective and reputable organization is Operation USA, a non-profit, non-governmental organization that has been able to fly privately-donated equipment and fresh medicine to clinics in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana isolated from major routes of transit," the website continued.

"The Memphis Food Bank is currently in shortage too, so that will be another good option to consider in the weeks to come as we continue to assess where the need is most apparent."

Even if you missed out on the Oct. 7 event at Backstreet Memphis, you

can still donate to dance/relief and its causes. Simply log on to its website, again at www.dancerelief.org, and click the word "donate" in the top, left to right, menu bar.

For those who like to think they got something for their donation, there are T-shirts and buttons available for purchase. The official dance/relief event T-shirt sells for \$15, while the red, black and white dance/relief one-inch in diameter button can be had for a \$1 donation to the organization.

For additional information about dance/relief or to ask the organization a specific question, you can send them an email to info@dancerelief.org.

LOVE IN ACTION, from page 4

details filled with lies about QAC." It read:

"QAC's goal was never to have LIA closed down, come under state investigation, or the like. QAC was not a part of the initial spreading of 'an adolescent participants' blog entries; we, in fact, tried to stop the spread of those blog entries, encouraging individuals to cease from publicizing them."

"QAC NEVER, repeat NEVER, besieged any state office, official or the like for any reason, and specifically not to pressure anyone in any position in regards to any of the investigations. The only contact we had with the State of Tennessee was with Rachel Lassiter, who is responsible for dispensing information to the public about investigations, and we contacted her on a few occasions only to get updates about the investigations."

"QAC HAS NO CONNECTION WITH THESE INVESTIGATIONS. We never filed complaints, pressured state officials, nor did we make it our mission in any way to have Love In Action shut down. We feel that it is unfortunate that Love In Action would feel the need to distort facts, specifically in a document that will be used in a court of law. When one of our representatives met with John Smid, director of LIA in August 2005, many of these issues actually were discussed, and cleared up. Mr. Smid acknowledged that it understood it wasn't QAC sending emails to him out of hate, and it wasn't QAC that spread 'an adolescent participants' blog entries, and also that it wasn't QAC who filed reports with the state."

"With this knowledge, the only conclusion we come to is that these are direct deceptions on the part of Love In Action and their attorneys in an attempt to slander not only QAC, but the State of Tennessee and their investigations as being nothing more than 'politics of the left.'"

PFLAG offered these comments on its inclusion in the allegations of the lawsuit:

"It is interesting to see that this is the strategy they are taking," Ron Schlittler, deputy executive director of PFLAG, told *The Mid-South GLBT News•Press*. "The right wing has consistently used lawsuits to gum up the system. It is a deliberate strategy to buy time and to bully agencies or individuals that are trying to hold them accountable."

"In this particular case, I've

looked through the lawsuit. What is interesting to me is they (Love in Action International) have made some pretty wild claims about what PFLAG has done," Schlittler continued. "We did issue a couple of press releases, we alerted our chapters, but we never made a sweeping call to action for people to call the State of Tennessee, as claimed in this lawsuit. We never did that. The only thing we did in the press releases was say it was good that these so-called providers needed to be held accountable. We would hope that Love In Action and any such agency are held accountable."

Schlittler pointed out the silver lining in the lawsuit, noting two good things generated so far from the State of Tennessee's investigations.

"There are two good things that have come out of this," he said. "We applaud the State of Tennessee and

think it is the right thing to do. First, during the initial investigation when we were dealing with Zach's situation, Love In Action

was forced to quit representing that they were offering legitimate counseling and therapy. They had to call what they are doing what it is, which is religious coaching, and stop using the trappings of credibility and legitimacy that is meant with the terms counseling and therapy. So, the first thing good to come out of this is more honesty about what they say they are providing."

"The second good thing is shining the spotlight on the illegal criminal activities that have been engaged in which, apparently, most recently includes dispensing medications without a license," Schlittler said, referring to LIA's alleged dispensing of prescribed medications to its clients.

"So we will see what goes from here," Schlittler concluded. "They are being forced to not do things that are illegal. If they are going to provide faith-based counseling, they at least have to be honest and stop calling it legitimate therapy."

Lambda Legal agreed with PFLAG's Schlittler's comments.

"The valuable message coming from the LIA (Love in Action) situation is that ex-gay ministries are not legitimate mental healthcare providers," Gregory R. Nevins, senior staff attorney with Lambda Legal Southern Regional Office told *The*

GLBT News•Press. "By taking action against LIA, Tennessee has led to LIA's admission that it is not a legitimate mental health organization."

"Indeed, actual professionals agree that conversion therapy is extremely damaging mentally and emotionally," he continued. "An 'American Psychiatric Association 2000 Fact Sheet on Homosexual and Bisexual Issues' states that, 'There is no published scientific evidence supporting the efficacy of "reparative therapy" as a treatment to change one's sexual orientation' and notes that, 'Several other major professional organizations, including the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers and the American Academy of Pediatrics also have made statements against "reparative therapy" because of concerns for the harm caused to patients.'"

A press release from the Alliance Defense Fund, the legal counsel for LIA, explains LIA's position that it is a faith-based organization

and not subject to the State of Tennessee's rules, regulations and licensure, the basis of their lawsuit.

"This is harassment, pure and simple," said ADF senior legal counsel Nate Kellum. "There is no legitimate state interest here. There's no health or safety violation, and there's no fire code or overcrowding concern. Love In Action's ministry has nothing to do whatsoever with mental health as defined by law, but the Department of Mental Health wants to regulate it anyway."

According to ADF, Love in Action is a private, 501(c)(3) organization and exists to be a Christ-centered ministry for the prevention or remediation of unhealthy and destructive behaviors facing families, adults and adolescents.

"The state is trying to turn a Christian ministry into a state-regulated mental hospital," Kellum explained. "By the state's reasoning, a homeless shelter would become a medical clinic if a homeless person were taking antibiotics for some minor infection. Do we want the state to shut down private organizations that are helping people who are struggling?"

For the full text of the lawsuit, go online to the website www.telladf.org/UserDocs/LIAvTNC complaint.pdf.

The Brothers & Sisters Bowling League



Bowls Every Sunday at 6 p.m. at Winchester Lanes 3703 S. Mendenhall

For information contact, RON BRIGHT at 901.728.6535

Department of Defense withholds funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Defense has withheld federal funding from three law schools — New York Law School, Vermont Law School and William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minn. — under the federal law known as the Solomon Amendment.

"New York Law School officials found out earlier this month from the Pentagon that federal funding would be withheld if they did not allow recruiters back on their campus," the *Yale Daily News* reported on Sept. 29.

The Solomon Amendment, passed

by Congress in 1996, prohibits schools receiving federal funds from denying the military entry to campuses, access to students on campus and access to student recruiting information.

Last year, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the law unconstitutional, finding that it violated universities' free speech rights by forcing them to violate nondiscrimination policies that include sexual orientation. An appeal of that case, *FAIR v. Rumsfeld*, will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in December and a decision is antici-

pated later this term. FAIR is a coalition of 24 law schools challenging the law in court.

At various times, universities have barred military recruiters from campus for reasons ranging from opposition to the Vietnam War to objections to excluding women from the military. Most recently, American law schools, have refused to let any employer recruit on their campuses unless it was willing to promise that it did not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. Because the military refused, its recruiters were barred.

"Colleges and universities should not be forced to compromise their policies of equal opportunity in order to receive federal funding," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), which filed an amicus brief in the case. "It is the military's policy of discrimination, and not universities' attempts to treat all students fairly, that should change. The armed forces should play by the same rule as all other employers seeking access to

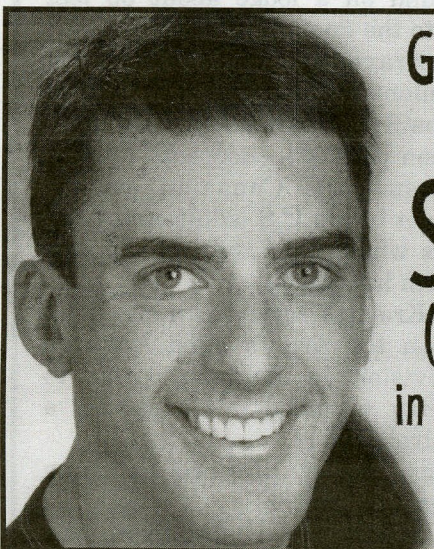
students: no discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

On Sept. 21, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) also filed a friend-of-the-court brief.

"The Court has said for years that the federal government cannot force private citizens to carry government messages they disagree with," said Matt Coles, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "These schools say that the military, as long as it discriminates, is not a good place to work. The government should not be able to threaten to cut off all funding to the rest of the university unless the law schools let the recruiters push jobs in the military."

"Universities should be commended for holding the line against discrimination and insisting that it is wrong," Cole said. "For the time being, Congress can keep gay people out of the military. It shouldn't be able to violate university rules against discrimination, as well."

For more information, go online to www.solomonresponse.org or www.aclu.org.



Get up close & personal
with out dancer
SEAN KELLY
(oh yeah, he's single!)
in the November 2005 issue of
FAMILY & friends

Get **FAMILY & friends** Delivered To
Your Doorstep Every Month For Just



\$22

A

YEAR!

☐ YES! I want to subscribe to Family & Friends

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Return this coupon with a check or money order to:

P.O. Box 771948, Memphis, TN 38177-1948

Searching for Your
Dream Home?

Call 377★1057



18 Years
Memphis
Experience!

GlennMoore.com

WOODLAND
REALTY

REALTOR® MLS

Look at our NEW SEARCH Features

HIV Oral Swab Test

20-MINUTE IMMEDIATE RESULT

FDA approved, confidential HIV testing in a private setting with counseling and support at your fingertips.

901-795-5905

Office open M-F, 9 am to 4:30 pm. Evening appointments available.

Medical Testing Resources
4322 American Way, Memphis



Five all-time dumbest lines:

"I absolutely know my partner's sexual history"

"Condoms are foolproof"

"For the last couple of years I've been careful"

"I can't have HIV, I feel fine"

"Testing is too much hassle. I'd rather not know"

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR UNIQUE
HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS
WE GOT 'EM!

**COSMIC
CLOSET**

ultra modern home

Visit Us At Our
NEW LOCATION

48 South McLean
Midtown Memphis
901.278.2259
or toll-free at
877.272.2259

www.cosmiccloset.com

FAMILY ADVANCE SCREENING
& friends MAGAZINE

in
conjunction
with

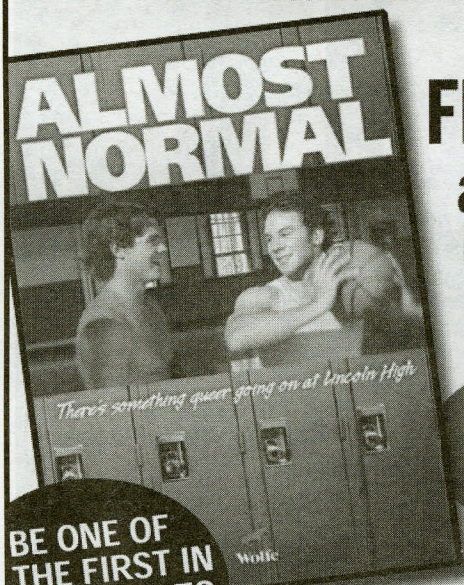
Wolfe

Family Flavors

Movie
Rentals &
Pride Essentials

PROUDLY PRESENT A **FREE NIGHT OF**
ALMOST NORMAL

"Back To The Future" meets "Peggy Sue Got Married"



BE ONE OF
THE FIRST IN
MEMPHIS TO
SEE IT!

FRIDAY, NOV. 11

at The Media Coop
inside First Congo Church
1000 S. Cooper

FREE REFRESHMENTS
Popcorn • Sodas • Candy

Doors open at 7:30 pm • Movie starts at 8 pm

International News

by Rex Wockner
staff writer

Report: Yasser Arafat was HIV-positive

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat was HIV-positive when he died in a Paris hospital last year, the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported Sept. 8.

"An analysis of the confidential medical report on Yasser Arafat's death reveals three main possibilities as to the cause: poisoning, AIDS or an infection," the newspaper said.

The report said the immediate cause of death was a massive brain hemorrhage but adds that doctors were unable to explain his underlying illness.

The report's findings were published in a new edition of the book, *The Seventh War*, by journalists Amos Harel and Avi Isacharoff.

Dr. Ashraf al-Kurdi, Arafat's personal physician, told reporters that French doctors found HIV in Arafat's blood. He claimed Arafat had been injected with the virus to blur traces of poisoning by Israeli agents.

Meanwhile, the *New York Times* did its own analysis of the records and concluded Arafat died "from a stroke that resulted from a bleeding disorder caused by an unidentified infection."

The *Jerusalem Post* claimed that Gay.com has reported that Arafat was (allegedly) bisexual and (allegedly) had AIDS. A search of Gay.com turned up nothing except a message-board posting by a user linking to an article at 365Gay.com, which speculated about AIDS and said, "For several years there have been suggestions that Arafat was bisexual."

Strippers found dead in Montreal

Two U.S. male strippers who were working at the Toronto gay bar Remington's were found dead inside a rock quarry outside Montreal Sept. 1.

Mark Kraynak, 23, and Steve Wright, 20, had been missing since Aug. 22, when they planned to visit a nearby after-hours bar, Red Lite, in the suburb of Laval.

Police have not determined if the men fell, were pushed, or were placed at the quarry after being murdered. The bodies were found on a ledge about 50 feet into the quarry.

Kraynak, who was from Uniontown, Pa., and Wright, who was from Santa Rosa, Calif., had been part of a successful lawsuit against the Canadian government by six U.S. adult entertainers who sought the right to perform in Canada.

Kraynak served as a specialist with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division in Baghdad prior to being wounded and receiving a Purple Heart.

Gay rugby players produce sexy calendar

Wale's gay rugby team, the Cardiff Lions, released a sexy calendar in hopes of raising money to send itself to New York for next year's Bingham Cup tournament.

"We are over-the-moon with the finished product - it's brilliant," team spokesman Stuart Savage told the *Wales on Sunday* newspaper. "We were all nervous at the start of the shoot but as soon as one person did it, we all relaxed. It was in a good cause!"

The calendar sells for 8.99 pounds (about \$16.57 U.S. dollars). It is available at the team's website at www.cardiffions.co.uk/calendar.htm.

TENNESSEE DISABILITY INFORMATION & REFERRAL OFFICE



John F. Kennedy Center, Vanderbilt University

Phone: (615) 322-8529 (Voice) • (800) 640-INFO (4636)
(615) 343-2958 (TDD) • (800) 273-9595 (TDD)

E-mail: carole.moore-slater@vanderbilt.edu

Website: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/kennedy/findse.html>

This office provides information about disability supports and community services available to individuals, families, and agencies in TN.

ALLUSIONS
Entertainment Complex

EVERY FRIDAY

Ladies Night • FREE B4 midnight

EVERY SATURDAY

Super
Saturday

3204 N. Thomas, Memphis, Tenn.
901.357.8383 • 866.370.2583



ACLU asks Maryland court to 'strike down' law

MARYLAND — On Aug. 30, the American Civil Liberties Union asked a Maryland circuit court to strike down a state law that bars same-sex couples from marriage and the hundreds of family protections afforded to married couples.

"The Maryland constitution requires that the state treat all Marylanders equally," said Ken Choe, a senior staff attorney with the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project who argued the case. "And yet, despite the fact that lesbian and gay people make the same kinds of commitments to their partners and children that straight people make, the state denies them numerous protections that keep families afloat during difficult times. The state cannot justify such unequal treatment."

The ACLU appeared before Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge M. Brooke Murdock on behalf of nine same-sex couples who have been denied marriage licenses by the state, as well as a gay widower, many of whom were present in court.

"Our children need the same family protections that all families need," said Alvin Williams, who along with his partner of seven years, Nigel Simon, is raising three children who previously were in the Maryland foster care system. "I can't understand why the state would want to deny them the security of knowing that their family has a safety net should we fall upon hard times."

There is broad support within the state's religious community for marriage of same-sex couples. More than 100 religious leaders from throughout the state signed onto a friend-of-the-court brief supporting the right of lesbian and gay people to marry. State civil rights organizations and one of the state's leading child welfare organizations also filed briefs supporting marriage for same-sex couples.

"Since this case was filed, more and more Marylanders have come to realize that it is unfair to bar lesbian and gay families from marriage," said Dan Furmansky, executive director of Equality Maryland, the state's LGBT rights advocacy group. "Denying same-sex couples marriage protections, such as the ability of partners to make medical decisions for each other during medical emergencies, hurts families and ultimately the state."

It is unknown when the court will

issue its ruling. However, Maryland's highest court, the Court of Appeals, will almost certainly

have the ultimate say over the issue. The case is expected to continue for well over a year, perhaps

much longer.

For more information, go online to www.aclu.org.

Where same-sex marriage stands in other states

CALIFORNIA — On Sept. 29, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the California Civil Marriage and Religious Freedom Protection Act, which made history as the first time a marriage equality bill passed a state legislature. The California Senate passed the Act 21-15 on Sept. 1, and the California Assembly passed it on Sept. 6 with a 41-35 vote.

CONNECTICUT — Civil unions became legal in Connecticut on Oct. 1. Gay and lesbian couples will now be eligible for the 588 legal rights afforded to married couples in the state. Same-sex couples united in a civil marriage will now be granted hospital visitation rights and medical decision rights afforded opposite-sex married couples. However, the legislation does not include federal protections, such as Social Security benefits, pension rights, citizenship or ability to file a joint federal tax return.

Vermont is the only other state in the U.S. offering civil unions

and Massachusetts is the only state offering marriage to same-sex couples. Several states, including California, New Jersey and Maine, allow some sort of domestic partnership.

One note to the new civil union law in Connecticut: Same-sex couples who have had a civil union elsewhere will be prohibited from getting one in Connecticut because the out-of-state civil union will be recognized in Connecticut.

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal issued an official ruling on Sept. 20 saying Connecticut will recognize civil unions and domestic partnerships from other states but not same-sex marriages from Massachusetts.

"Civil unions performed in other states are entitled to full faith and credit in Connecticut, and cannot be repeated here. Out-of-state same-sex marriage have no legal force and effect here," Blumenthal wrote. "... After a careful, critical review of our law, I believe that out-of-state, same-sex civil unions and certain

domestic partnerships must be honored in Connecticut."

OREGON — On Sept. 25, Basic Rights Oregon, a gay activist group, urged a judge to throw out a gay marriage ban enacted by Oregon voters last November. The case was heard in Marion County Circuit Court in Salem.

About 3,000 same-sex couples were issued marriage licenses in Oregon, but the licenses were nullified by the Oregon Supreme Court in April 2005.

UTAH — Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson signed an executive order on Sept. 21, granting domestic partner benefits to Salt Lake City workers.

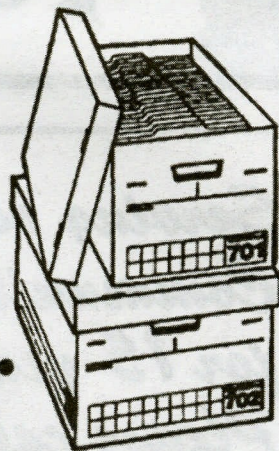
...

For those waiting for same-sex marriage or civil unions to come to your state, a lawyer can help same-sex couples complete documents to afford them many of the rights granted to opposite-sex married couples. Documents include power of attorneys, medical conservatorships and wills naming each other as beneficiaries.

Supply on Demand.



Since 1972 Yuletide has succeeded in meeting the demands of Memphis area businesses. 24-hour customer service, on-line accounts, and fast "to your door" delivery are the demands we placed on ourselves to help establish Yuletide as the office supply leader in the Mid-South. Contact us about your office needs today.



Yuletide *OP* office *plus*

1245 Sycamore View, Memphis, TN 38134
901-372-8588 • Fax 901-388-0785

FANTASY WAREHOUSE STORES All Adult All the Time

60 CHANNEL QUAD SCREEN ARCADE BOOTHS
NEW RELEASE DVE & VHS WEEKLY

FULL LINE BOOKSTORE
Adult Novelties & Gifts

THREE LOCATIONS TO VISIT IN MEMPHIS:

FANTASY WAREHOUSE (East) • 791 N. White Station • 683-9649
EXECUTIVE SOUTH (South) • 1847 E. Brooks Rd. • 345-0825 (MINI-THEATRE)
FANTASY WAREHOUSE (North) • 2532 N. Watkins • 358-8642



MUST BE 18 OR OLDER

Open 6 Days • 8:00 a.m. - 12 Midnight • Closed Sundays and Holidays

Allyson Frisch
CRYE-LEIKE,
REALTORS®
 For All Your Real Estate Needs!

Office: (901) 757-2500
 Cell: (901) 438-2559
 Fax: (901) 753-0475

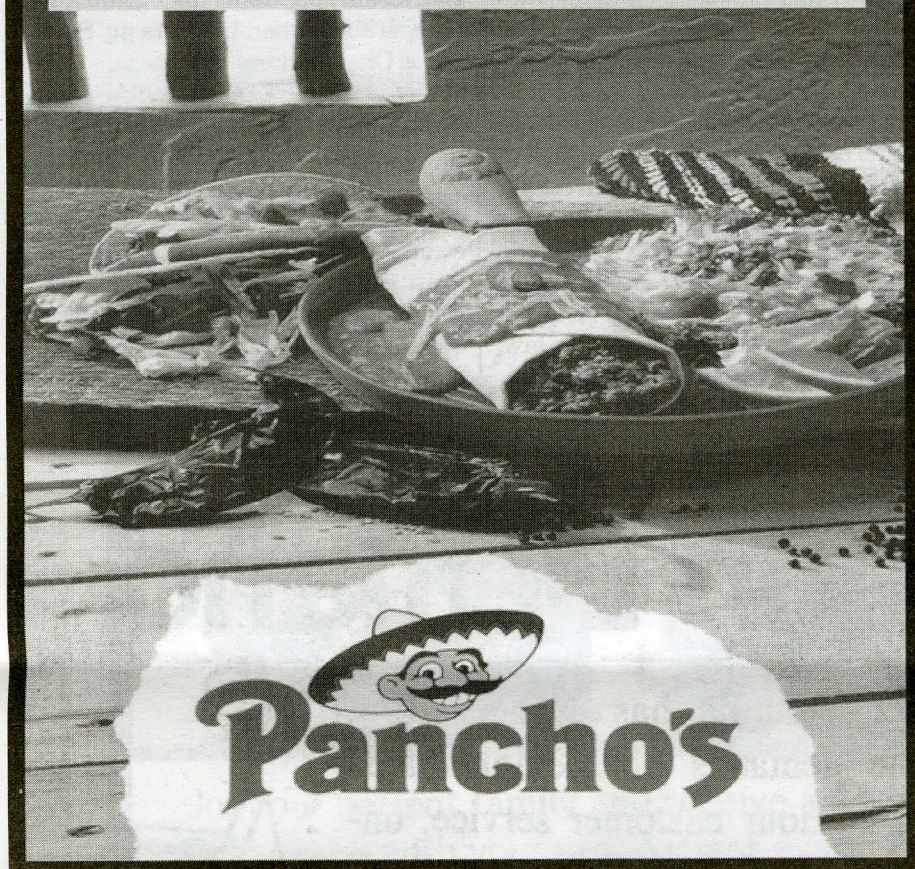
Browse through over 50,000 homes @
<http://allysonfrisch.crye-leike.com>

Full-Service Restaurants

East • 717 N. White Station (901) 685-5404
 Downtown • 87 S. Second St. (901) 522-0011
 West Memphis • 3600 E. Broadway (870) 735-6466

Quick-Serve Restaurant

East • 2841 S. Perkins Road (901) 363-8118



Sports

MGLCC 3rd Annual Gaymes medalists honored at banquet

MEMPHIS — The results of the 3rd Annual Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center's Gaymes have been announced and medals were given at an awards ceremony earlier this month. Former National Football League player Esera Tuaolo, who also is an out, proud gay man, partner and father, was on hand to present the medals.

The medals were presented to the following peopel:

Scrabble:

Gold-Erin Cagle, Silver-Michael Myer, Bronze-Heidi Williams

Honorary Gold-Heidi Williams, Honorary Silver-Angela, Honorary Bronze-Tony Wilson

Bowling:

League Winners: Gold-Sue Redfern, Silver-Curtis Petty, Bronze-Sylvia Edmonds

Non-League Winners: Gold-Chris Balton, Silver-Chris Haskins, Bronze-Bob Loos

Putt-Putt:

Gold-Jake Hughes, Silver-Andy Monsue, Bronze-Glenn Moore

Laser Tag:

Gold-Glenn Moore, Silver-Katharina Vanlawick, Bronze-Scott Miller

Pool:

Gold-Tony Wilson, Silver-Scott Miller, Bronze-Eddie Parker

Darts:

Gold-Brenna Ragghianti, Silver-Tony Wilson, Bronze-Tim Armor

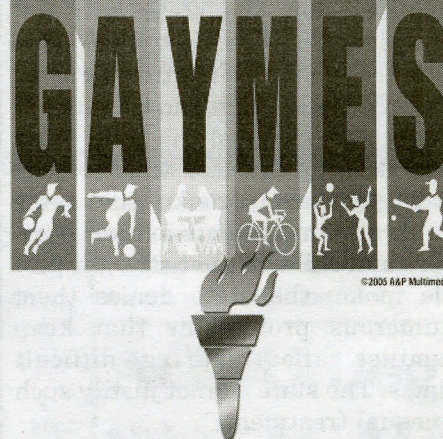
Basketball:

Gold-BGALA Team (Ginny Long, Mary Park, Katharina Vanlawick)
 Silver-MGLCC Team (Chris Balton, Chris Haskins, Tony Wilson)
 Bronze-RP Tracks Team (Herschel Stokes, Scott Fur, Young)

Blues Bash Softball

Tournament:

memphis gay & lesbian
 community center's



American Division: Gold-Nashville Shock, Silver-Birmingham Sliders, Bronze-Memphis Neons

National Division: Gold-Nashville Diamond Jax, Silver-Birmingham Vipers, Bronze-Memphis SE Enforcers

Team Spirit Award: Gold-Memphis Flamingos, Silver-Memphis Outfielders, Bronze-Memphis Hobos

Volleyball:

Gold-BGALA, Silver-Pride, Bronze-MGLCC

Running:

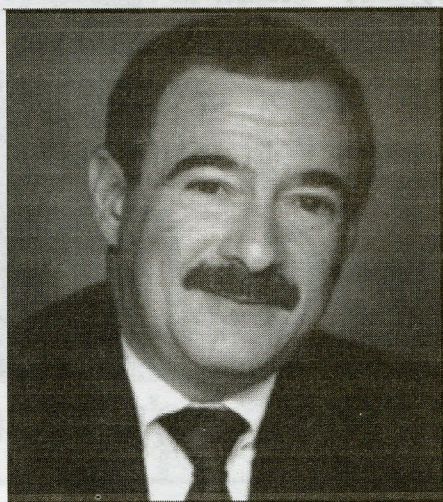
Gold-Shilpen Patel, Silver-Peter Groenendyk, Bronze-John Ward

Overall Team Competition:

Gold-Pride, Silver-BGALA, Bronze-MGLCC

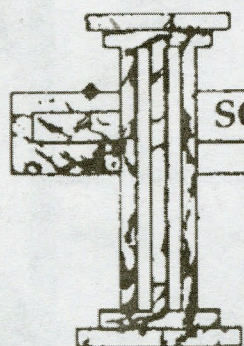
For pictures of the winners, as well as the MGLCC Gaymes reception for Esera Tuaolo, check out the November 2005 issue of Family & Friends Magazine.

*Serving our
 Community
 for 15 years!
 Please call
 me when you
 are ready to
 sell or to
 purchase a
 home. I want to be your real
 estate connection.*



Steve Solomon

Thanks!



SOWELL & COMPANY
 REALTORS

STEVE SOLOMON
 Broker

Office (901) 278-4380
 Residence (901) 454-1931
 54 S. Cooper • Memphis, TN 38104
 e-mail: Stevenc1@aol.com

*The Ultimate Expression
 Of Style*



Platinum Jewelers
 YOUR QUALITY WHOLESALE JEWELER

NEW
 LOCATION

2200 N. GERMANTOWN PKY. • 387-1005
 (NEXT TO BOLLA PASTA)

555 S. PERKINS EXT. • STE. 302 • 901.680.0020
 (OAK HALL BUILDING, NEXT TO GOLDSMITH'S OAK COURT)

RENAISSANCE
 PLATINUM

WWW.PLATINUMJEWELERS.COM

Advocates for Youth, SIECUS challenge federal funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Sept. 13, Advocates for Youth and the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) filed a challenge to the federal government's funding of inaccurate and ineffective abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

Filed with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the guidelines set forth by the Data Quality Act of 2000, Advocates for Youth and SIECUS issued the challenge to the quality of data and information disseminated through abstinence-only programs sponsored by the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) under HHS.

The Data Quality Act (DQA) directs the Office of Management and Budget to issue government-wide guidelines that "provide policy and procedural guidance to federal agencies for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility and integrity of information (including statistical information) disseminated by federal agencies."

More than 100 groups are presently funded by ACF to conduct abstinence-only education. Eleven of the 13 curricula most commonly used by these grantees contain false, inaccurate or incomplete information, according to a recent Congressional report.

"Those who make the rules must abide by the rules," said William Smith, vice president of public policy at SIECUS. "HHS's own guidelines were specifically designed to ensure that only high quality and scientifically sound data is disseminated to the American public."

"The false and inaccurate infor-

mation found in these abstinence-only-until-marriage programs clearly violates the Agency's own directive," Smith concluded.

Written by a conservative lobbyist and slipped in amidst an appropriations bill without Congressional discussion, the Data Quality Act provides a means to censor information about public health risks that might otherwise result in restrictions on big business.

"Turnabout is fair play," said James Wagoner, president of Advocates for Youth. "We'll use this and any other tool at our disposal to ensure that youth receive honest and accurate sex education."

"Never has so much government money been spent on so many programs with so little impact and so little oversight," Wagoner concluded, citing the (hundreds of millions of dollars) spent on inaccurate abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

SIECUS and Advocates for Youth have asked ACF and HHS to immediately cease sponsorship of programs that fail to provide medically accurate, complete sexual health information.

Advocates for Youth is a national, nonprofit organization that creates programs and supports policies that help young people make safe, responsible decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.

SIECUS advocates for the right of all people to accurate information, comprehensive education about sexuality, and sexual health services and works to create a world that ensures social justice and sexual rights.

Art for Hope

Hope House fundraiser is set for Saturday, November 5

MEMPHIS — Art for Hope, for those who enjoy and appreciate the artistic talents Memphis has nurtured, is set for Saturday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Hope House, 15 South Idlewild. Local artists from around the Mid-South have contributed their creations for sale. Guests can buy one-of-a-kind

paintings, ceramics, pottery, photographs, jewelry and more.

Proceeds benefit Hope House, which provides therapeutic day care, respite care and 24-hour emergency care in a safe, loving environment to children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

This event is open to the public. For more information, call (901) 272-2702, ext. 216.

HIV/AIDS TESTING SITES & INFORMATION

Friends For Life & The Positive Living Center
1384 Madison Avenue / 28 North Claybrook
Call Friends For Life for dates and times
FREE OraSure • appointments may be required
For more information, call (901) 272-0855

Memphis & Shelby County Health Department
814 Jefferson Avenue, Room 221 • 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday • Testing conducted on teens, ages 13 and up, without parental consent. HIV Test Cost: FREE
For more information, call (901) 544-6808

Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood
1407 Union Avenue, Third Floor • 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays • FREE OraSure testing for ages 13-24, over age 24: \$35 blood test, \$40 OraSure • For more information, call (901) 725-1717

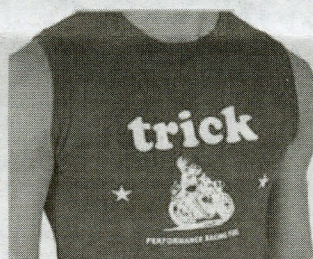
New Directions Inc.
4466 Elvis Presley, Suite 310 • 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday • Appointments required • HIV Test Cost: FREE
For more information, call (901) 346-5497

The Shot Nurse
4646 Poplar/So. Perkins • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays • There is a charge for an HIV test • For more information, call (901) 685-9999

Medical Testing Resources Inc.
4322 American Way • 9 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday
OraQuick 20-minute HIV test • Confidential
Cost: \$70 to \$90 • ages 13 and up
For more information, call (901) 795-5905

The Exodus Empowerment Project
2600 Poplar Avenue • Suite 200
For more information, call (901) 458-4717

This Halloween
are you going to
Trick or Treat
or...just



Have a F.A.G



New Products, New Style
for Memphis

Under New Ownership



Cards and Gifts

553 S. Cooper
Memphis, TN
(901) 728-6535

The 2006 Calendars
have arrived. Get
yours soon

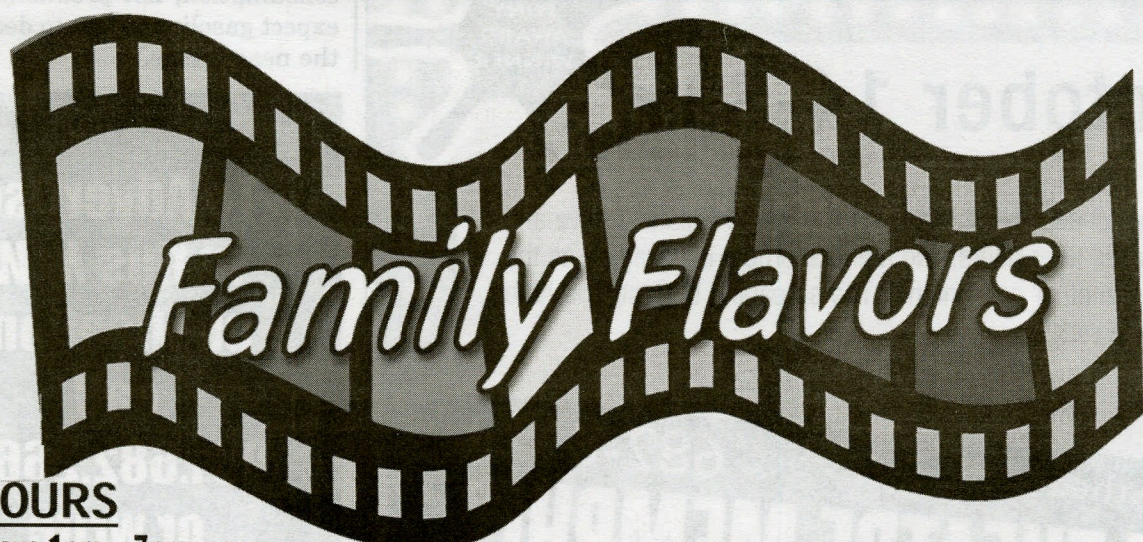
We carry the
complete line of
Menaji Skincare
(a GQ Magazine "Best of"
Skincare line)

Halloween

M-Th 10-7

Fri-Sat 10-8

Sun 12-5



HOURS

Sundays 1pm - 7pm

Monday-Thursday 1pm - 10pm

Friday & Saturday 1pm - 11pm

18 North McLean @ Madison Avenue
www.FamilyFlavors.com • 901-725-0313

Movie Rentals & Pride Essentials

FEATURING
hand-crafted items
by local GLBT artists

CEREBRAL, from page 3

they were re-evacuated to Fort Chaffee, Ark., supposedly in case Rita did to the Astrodome what Katrina did to the Superdome. Doesn't Texas have a lot of unused military bases?

Where were Bush's minions during the first week of the crisis? VEEP Cheney was trout fishing in Wyoming but returned in time for a Saturday photo op in the Biloxi area. Condoleezza Rice was taking in Broadway plays and imitating Imelda Marcos in chic Fifth Avenue shops. How could she acknowledge or accept aid from foreign governments or corporations if she wasn't in D.C.? She eventually flew to Biloxi for a photo op. SecDef Rumsfeld also flew to the Gulf Coast for a photo op days after Katrina struck.

BOOS and HISSES to the Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, who might as well have been in Antarctica watching the penguins march. He might have learned some survival skills for his inept FEMA director or himself. As Douglas Brinkley, respected Tulane

University professor stated, "FEMA has not helped the homeland in this emergency, nor has it provided any security. The role of the National Guard is not to fight foreign wars, but to protect each state."

BOOS, HISSES and JEERS to Michael Brown, director of FEMA (now resigned). I refer to FEMA as the Federal Emergency Mis-Management Agency, or FEMMA. This inexperienced, unqualified Bush campaign fundraiser, whose doctored up resume wasn't vetted for accuracy, had been Commissioner of the National Arabian Horse Association. In that capacity surely he knew which end of the horse eats and which end excretes. Apparently not, and he stood too close to the rear end. He was so full of horse manure that he was completely unaware of the plight of thousands of people needing relief in Refugee Central, a/k/a the Superdome and the New Orleans Convention Center.

FEMMA consists of three R's - Readiness, Response and Recovery. The agency failed miserably in all three areas. At times in New Orleans, the refugees epitomized

Darwin's Theory of Evolution, the survival of the fittest. In hospitals that proved all too true. State and local emergency management directors declared the federal response a disaster in itself. No wonder New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, in a pique of frustration, said, "I am pissed." Five days after the calamity, where were the feds who were supposed to regain control in a city that was near anarchy? Cargo planes laden with relief supplies flew to Indonesia last year the day after the tsunami struck.

According to Patrick Rhode, deputy director of FEMMA, the agency's mission was to coordinate rescue and recovery efforts. So why were more than 300 18-wheelers from all over the country re-routed by FEMMA from points south to Memphis? These trucks, which numbered more than 500 as time went by, carried needed relief supplies, such as water, ice, food, clothing and bedding. The drivers were paid up to \$900 a day to sit in the Memphis sun at the old Defense Depot. Many were still here awaiting instructions from FEMMA two weeks after Katrina had long gone.

On Sept. 9, after 11 days of complaints from mayors, governors, Congressmen and citizens, Bush finally caved in and relieved Michael Brown of his emergency management command. He was replaced by already on site Coast Guard Chief of Staff Vice Admiral (three stars) Thad Allen. Another admiral was assigned the on-site rescue, relief and recovery coordination for hurricane Rita. On Sept. 16, FEMMA finally opened an office in Biloxi.

Michael Brown resigned his office in the week after he was relieved of on-site duty. David Paulison has been appointed Acting Director of FEMA. Mr. Brown will probably receive a medal for screwing up, as did former CIA Chief George Tenet and former Iraq coalition provisional authority leader Paul Bremer. We can only hope Brown's medal will not be for meritorious service, but for disingenuous service.

Thunderous BOOS, loud HISSES and raucous JEERS to the inhumane couple who abandoned invalid patients in the nursing home they owned in New Orleans, resulting in the deaths of 34.

BOOS and JEERS to the many New Orleans police officers who deserted their posts and did not serve and protect, and to the law enforcement officers of Gretna who met refugees walking across the bridge from New Orleans with shot guns and forced them to turn back.

The fact that our president isn't a military man is pretty apparent. The President decided to ride out Hurricane Rita, not at the helm in the rough waters with his people and kin in Texas, but hightailed it way north to Homeland Security headquarters in Colorado to watch how state and local officials interact. Three branches of service evacuated people who couldn't leave on their own. Hopefully there was no child left behind, nor any adult. Unfortunately, more people were deserted in New Orleans than the entire population of Galveston.

When the President spends 20 percent of his time vacationing, and most of that at his Crawford ranch deep in the heart of Texas, the term executive privilege takes on an extraordinary new meaning, which extends to all levels of government.

Texas refineries, when operating, account for 25 percent of the nation's gasoline, Louisiana refineries 10 percent. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, crude oil prices rose 64 percent in the past year while retail gasoline prices rose 130 percent. This is gouging the public. Our energy policy is skewed towards consumption, not production. Don't expect gasoline prices to decrease in the near future.

Child's Play



Lohrey Stage October 14-30

By Robert Marasco

Something is amiss in a Catholic boys' boarding school. The students have become sinister, furtive and conspiratorial as they steal up and down staircases after hours. The menace erupts in savagery as the students torture one of their members and then another and another. The spreading disease is a hate so perverse that it's infected the students and the staff.

Season Sponsor: Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation
Season Media Sponsor: Time Warner Cable
Media Sponsors: Family and Friends and 94.1 The Buzz

www.theatrememphis.org 682-8323
THEATRE MEMPHIS
THE CITY'S STORIED STAGE 85 Years



To Advertise
in this **NEW**
publication,
call

901.682.2669

or write

GLBTNewsPress@aol.com

B G A L A

University of Memphis Students for
Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Awareness

uofm_bgala@yahoo.com • www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala



As other denominations tell you, "No,"
we continue to proclaim a joyous "YES!"

**First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
1000 South Cooper • Cooper/Young District

An Open and Affirming Church welcoming all the
children of God into a community of faith and Spirit!

Worship at 10:30 on Sunday mornings • www.firstcongo.com

CRISIS CENTER

24-hour
telephone hotline

(901) 274-7477

GAYELLOW PAGES™

INFORMING THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY SINCE 1973
Separate WOMEN'S and ETHNIC/MULTICULTURAL sections

Find us at gay-friendly stores like
Inz & Outz, Memphis 901-728-6535
Outloud Books & Gifts, Nashville 615-340-0034

<http://gayellowpages.com>

19 N. COOPER • 901-725-0521 • MEMPHIS, TN



DABBL'S
HAIR COMPANY
Dare to be Different!

TUE-FRI 9-7 • SAT 9-3

WALK-INS WELCOME

PAUL MITCHELL • RISK • FUDGE



Make your family complete
with a new best friend.

Memphis Shelby County Humane Society
2238 Central Avenue - Memphis, TN 38104

Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. - M-S/ 901-276-1753

www.memphishumane.org

COME GIVE US SOME HEAD

HI GORGEOUS INC.
INNOVATIVE HAIR DESIGN

Haircuts start @ \$20 and up
New Clients ONLY, 1/2 off first haircut.

1475 MADISON AVENUE • 901-726-5151

Need Someone To Talk To?

Memphis Area Gay Youth

A peer support & discussion group

(901) 335-MAGY



**Memphis Gay & Lesbian
Community Center**

892 South Cooper
Memphis, TN 38104

901.278.4297 • www.mgllcc.org

WELCOME HOME!

- MASSAGE BY -

Tom Pitman

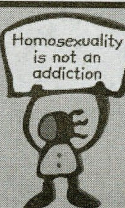
NATIONALLY CERTIFIED MASSAGE THERAPIST
SWEDISH/DEEP TISSUE • HOT STONE MASSAGE

(901) 761-7977

BY APPOINTMENT

IN/OUT CALLS

GIFT CERTIFICATES



**Queer Action
Coalition**

VISIT US AT:

www.qaconline.org

<http://fightinghomophobia.blogspot.com>
fighting.homophobia@gmail.com

Stephen Pair

LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST/PERSONAL TRAINER

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

SPORTS • THERAPEUTIC

RELAXING • SWEDISH

1684 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104

(901) 277-1705

stepenpair@aol.com

COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

BARS/NIGHT CLUBS • MEMPHIS, TN

ALLUSIONS, 3204 North Thomas in the Northgate Shopping Center (in the back), (901) 357-8383. Open at 9 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

BACKSTREET MEMPHIS, 2018 Court Street, (901) 276-5522, Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m.-6 a.m., Sun. 8 p.m. to 3 a.m., www.backstreetmemphis.com

J-WAG'S, 1268 Madison Avenue, (901) 725-1909, Open 24 Hours A Day, 7 Days A Week

THE JUNGLE, 1474 Madison Avenue, (901) 278-0521, 4 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon. Fri./3 p.m.-3 a.m. Sat. & Sun.

LORENZ/AFTERSHOCK, 1528 Madison Avenue, (901) 274-8272, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

MADISON FLAME, 1588 Madison Avenue, (901) 278-0569, 7 p.m.-3 a.m. Wed., Fri. & Sat./5 p.m.-? Thurs.

METRO MEMPHIS, 1349 Autumn Street, (901) 274-8010, 6 p.m.-3 a.m., 7 days a week

ONE MORE, 2117 Peabody, (901) 278-MORE (6673), 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat./noon-3 a.m. Sun.

PARAGON, 2865 Walnut Grove Road, (901) 320-0026, Thurs.-Sun. 8 p.m.-?

THE PUMPING STATION, 1382 Poplar Avenue, (901) 272-7600, 4 p.m. to 3 a.m. Mon.-Friday, 3 p.m. to 3 a.m. Sat. & Sun.

BARS/NIGHT CLUBS • CHATTANOOGA, TN

MI-NITE, 27 West 19th Street, (423) 504-3650, Thurs.-Sun. 9 p.m.-3 a.m.

IMAGES, 6005 Lee Highway, (423) 855-8210, 5 p.m. to 3 a.m., 7 days a week, www.mirage-complex.com, Email: mirage_complex@hotmail.com

BARS/NIGHT CLUBS • JACKSON, TN

JESSIE LEE'S, 3883 Highway 45 North, (731) 660-8120, Tues.-Sun. 6 p.m. to 3 a.m.

BARS/NIGHT CLUBS • JACKSON, MS

CLUB CITY LIGHTS, 220 West Amite Street, (601) 353-0059

CLUB METRO, 4670 Highway 80 West, (601) 922-8227, (601) 922-8237, (888) 43-METRO, Tues., Fri. & Sun., 9 p.m. to 3 a.m., Sat., 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.

JACK & JILL'S, 3911 Northview Drive, (601) 982-JACK (5225), 9 p.m.-? Fri. & Sat., website: www.jacksonbars.com

JACK'S CONSTRUCTION SITE (aka JC'S), 425 North Mart Plaza, (601) 362 3108, 5 p.m.-? 7 Days A Week, website: www.jacksonbars.com

BARS/NIGHT CLUBS • TUPELO, MS

RUMORS, 637 Highway 145, (662) 767-9500, 8 p.m. -1 a.m. Thurs. - Sat., email: rumors@futuresouth.com

BARS/NIGHT CLUBS • HOT SPRINGS, AR

OUR HOUSE, 660 East Grand Avenue, Hot Springs, Ark. (501) 624-6868, Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m. to 3 a.m., Sat., 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

BARS/NIGHT CLUBS • LITTLE ROCK, AR

BACKSTREET-LITTLE ROCK, 1021 Jessie Road, (501) 662-2744, Fri.-Mon. 9 p.m.-5 a.m., website: Backstreetdanceclub.com

DISCOVERY, 1021 Jessie Road, (501) 664-4784, Sat. only, 9 p.m.-5 a.m., website: Latenightdisco.com

THE FACTORY, 412 South Louisiana, (501) 372-3070, Tues.-Fri. 5 p.m. to 2 a.m., Saturday 8 p.m. until ?

SOCIAL • MEMPHIS, TN

ALPHA CHI UPSILON, a multi-cultural social sorority, email: alphachiupsilon@yahoo.com, website: www.alphachiupsilon.com

BETA EPSILON CHAPTER OF BETA PHI OMEGA SORORITY INC., is a social service organization for feminine lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual women of all races, (901) 281-0830, email: betaepsilonchapter@yahoo.com, website: www.betaphiomeganet.net

B.G.A.L.A., (University of Memphis Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Awareness), a social, political

and educational organization, e-mail:

uofm_bgala@yahoo.com,

www.people.memphis.edu/~bgala

BLUE SUEDE BEARS OF MEMPHIS, Meets the second Monday of each month at The Jungle, 1474 Madison Ave.

(901) 644-2786, email: info@bluesuedebeares.com,

www.bluesuedebeares.com

COTTON PICKIN' SQUARES MEMPHIS, (901) 272-2116, Meets Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Community Church, 515 South Highland Street, Square dancing social group

VICIOUSVIZZENV, for more information, join the following Yahoo group: autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/HOLMCMEMPHIS; email Wendy Curtis at Bikerbroad901@yahoo.com or call (901) 643-1222

JUST FOR US MEMPHIS, is a social group welcoming single or partnered lesbians ages 18+. Some gatherings are designed specifically for members and their children, (901) 268-1903, email: justforusmemphis@yahoo.com

MEMPHIS AREA GAY YOUTH (MAGY), P.O. Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124, (901) 335-6249, Peer support group for 13- to 21-year olds dealing with gay, lesbian, bisexual & gender issues,

www.gaymemphis.com/magy

MEMPHIS GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 892 South Cooper Memphis, 38104, (901) 278-4297, townhall meetings every other month; Mon.-Fri., 6 to 9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 2 to 6 p.m.

MID-SOUTH PRIDE, 111 S. Highland, Suite 261, Memphis, TN 38111, (901) 328-6349, send an email to: info@MidSouthPride.org, website: www.MidSouthPride.org. GLBT Pride events for Memphis and the Mid-South.

MYSTIC KREWE OF APHRODITE, a social and service organization, women only, P.O. Box 11483, Memphis, TN 38111-1483, email: aphroditemem@yahoo.com, website: www.geocities.com/aphroditemem

MYSTIC KREWE OF MEMPHIS UNITED, a non-profit charity group.

NOBLE KREWE OF HATHOR, a social organization of men and women who support and promote local Memphis area charitable programs, P.O. Box 820901, Memphis, TN 38182-0901, www.kreweofhathor.com

P.F.L.A.G. (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays), (901) 754-3136, Support meetings for parents, family and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, email: amdrake@mem.po.com

QUEER ACTION COALITION, a group that works towards educating society about the existence of "ex-gay" ministries, email: fightinghomophobia@gmail.com, blog: fightinghomophobia.blogspot.com, website: www.qaconline.org

TENNESSEE LEATHER TRIBE, (901) 357-1921, Club nights and meetings vary; contact for info - men and women welcome, www.tnleathertribe.org, email: info@tnleathertribe.org

TSARUS MEMPHIS, P.O. Box 41082, Memphis, TN 38174, (901) 276-4132, Levi-leather club meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at The Pumping Station, 1382 Poplar Avenue, at 10 p.m. • MEN ONLY, Email: info@tsarus.org, website: www.tsarus.org

SOCIAL • KNOXVILLE, TN

LAMBDA STUDENT UNION, a social and educational organization for GLBT, questioning and straight students at The University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 315 University Center, Box 315, 1502 West Cumberland Ave., Knoxville, TN 37996-4800, lambdauk@utk.edu, website: web.utk.edu/~lambda/

SOCIAL • MISSISSIPPI

OLE MISS GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 3541, University, MS 38677, (662) 915-7049, email: gayole-miss@hotmail.com

GLBF, P.O. Box 233, MS State, MS 39762, (662) 325-8241, email: glbf@org.msstate.edu, www.msstate.edu/org/glbf

PFLAG-TUPELO, 115A Issac Drive, Tupelo, MS 38801, (662) 566-2282, email: Alliance22Bo@aol.com,

groups.yahoo.com/group/PFLAGTupelo

USM GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE, email: GSAAlliance@usm.edu or thespy_ms@yahoo.com,

website: www.usm.edu/gsa

SOCIAL • ARKANSAS

SAFE HARBOR NEA, A confidential support and social group for GLBT persons, ages 25 and under, in northeast Arkansas, (870) 932-6545, P.O. Box 226, Jonesboro, AR 72403, www.safeharbor-nea.com

SOCIAL • MISSOURI

VISIONS OF PRIDE COMMUNITY CENTER, 30 North Pacific, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, (573) 651-6220, email: DeltaDyke@aol.com, hometown.aol.com/deltadyke/myhomepage/gaypride.html

WHOLENESS • MEMPHIS, TN

FEAST FOR FRIENDS DINNER, (901) 272-0855, Dinner is served the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at First Congregational Church, 1000 South Cooper, through September, beginning at 6 p.m.

MEMPHIS REGIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD, 1407 Union Avenue Extended, 3rd Floor (901) 725-1717, HIV & STD testing, gynecological preventive care

MEMPHIS HIV FAMILY CARE NETWORK, 880 Madison Avenue, Memphis, TN, (901) 545-8265, Free comprehensive, supportive services and voc/rehab services to the HIV-positive

NICOTINE ANONYMOUS MEETING, Saturdays 10 a.m., Christ United Methodist Church, 4488 Poplar Avenue. (901) 278-6234

PHOENIX AA MEETING, open to all, especially the GLBT community. Meets each Tuesday at 8 p.m. at Grace St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1720 Peabody, (901) 454-1414

SERIOUSLY SOBER OPEN AA MEETING, (an open men & women's Alcoholics Anonymous meeting), Meets each Friday at 8 p.m. at Holy Trinity Community Church, 515 South Highland Street, (901) 324-9200

THE POSITIVE LIVING CENTER, 1000 South Cooper Street, Memphis, TN, (901) 726-6022 •

Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 8 p.m. Provides opportunities for persons affected by HIV/AIDS to manage the disease in a holistic manner, free of charge.

YWCA ENCORE, MedPlex, 880 Madison Avenue, (901) 754-4356, Support group for lesbians with breast cancer meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon

WHOLENESS • MISSISSIPPI

BUILDING BRIDGES INC., 2147 Henry Hill Drive, Suite 206, Jackson, MS 39204, (601) 922-0100. Education, prevention, support group.

COMMUNITY SWITCHBOARD OF MS GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE, (601) 346-4379, operated seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Information and referral on GLBT issues and HIV/AIDS.

MS GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE, 5565 Robinson Road Ext., Suite Q, Jackson, MS 39284, (601) 371-3019.

SOUTHERN AIDS COMMISSION, P.O. Box 293, Greenville, MS 38702, (662) 334-3349, education and prevention.

SOUTHERN AIDS COMMISSION, 5565 Robinson Road Ext., Suite Q, Jackson, MS 39284, (601) 371-3019, direct HIV/AIDS services.

SPIRITUAL • MEMPHIS, TN

INTEGRITY MEMPHIS, 102 N. Second Street, Memphis, TN 38103, (901) 525 6602, People of all faiths and ideologies are welcome, Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church. Dinner at 7 p.m., www.geocities.com/integrity_memphis/main.html

OUT-WITH-GRACE, (901) 278-6786, Open to all GLBT persons of faith to join in an affirming time of prayer, Bible study and discussion., Meets Sundays from 4 to 5:30 p.m., September through July, at First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper Street.

SPIRITUAL • OTHER LOCATIONS

CAMP SISTER SPIRIT, P.O. Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464, Feminist education/cultural/retreat center, www.campsis-terspirit.com, email: sisterspir@aol.com

MCC OF THE RAINBOW, 5565 Robinson Rd. Ext., Ste. Q, Jackson, MS 39204, (601) 372-6644, Sunday Service at 11:30 a.m.

POLITICAL • TENNESSEE

MEMPHIS FREETHOUGHT ALLIANCE, an association of atheists, agnostics and secular humanists, meets the third Sunday at the Memphis Public Library, 3030 Poplar Ave., Room C, call Jim Maynard at (901) 327-2677, email: memphis-freethought@yahoo.com, www.geocities.com/memphis-freethought

MEMPHIS STONEWALL DEMOCRATS, P.O. Box 241363, Memphis, TN 38124, (901) 327-2677. Email: mlgcj@yahoo.com, website: www.memphisstonewalldemocrats.org, meets second Sunday of each moth at 2 p.m. at the MGLCC, 892 South Cooper..

MID-SOUTH GAY & LESBIAN REPUBLICANS, P.O. Box 770505, Memphis, TN 38177, meets the third Sunday at 1 p.m. at the MGLCC, 892 S. Cooper and meets the first Wednesday at 7 p.m. at area restaurants, Email: MGLR_President@yahoo.com,

www.yahooogroups.com/group/MidSouthGLR.

MEMPHIS STONEWALL DEMOCRATS, www.geocities.com/mpshstonewallem, (901) 327-2677, email: mpshstonewalldem@yahoo.com

TENNESSEE TRANSGENDER POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE, a statewide political lobbying organization for transgender equality, P.O. Box 92335, Nashville, TN 37209, fax: (615) 353-1834, email: ttgac@aol.com, website: tenntg.com

POLITICAL • MISSISSIPPI

EQUALITY MISSISSIPPI, P.O. Box 6021, Jackson, MS 39288-6021, (601) 936 7673, you can send an email to: EqualityMS@EqualityMS.org, website: www.EqualityMS.org

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE YOU
See Stars

A view that will knock you out - Starting in the \$160s

Rooftop patio	Nine foot windows
Private balconies	Open floor plans
1-to-3 bedrooms	Indoor parking
Luxury kitchens	River Views

PRE-SELLING NOW

R I V E R S I D E 6 4 8

m e t r o p o l i t a n c o n d o m i n i u m s

648 Riverside at Georgia | cell 901.550.7478
Memphis, TN 38103 | office 901.521.1593
Call Tom Davis | Henry Turley, Realtors
www.RIVERSIDE648.com

